

L E T T E R S

FROM A LADY,

& Ward of Honour to Catherine
WHO RESIDED SOME YEARS IN

afterwards the Empress
R U S S I A,

T O

HER FRIEND IN ENGLAND.

WITH

HISTORICAL NOTES.

THE SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. DODSLEY, in PALL-MALL.

MDCCLXXVII.



CONTENTS.

LETTER	Page
<p>I. <i>D</i>escription of Petersburg.— Monastery of St. Alexander Newski. Tour into the country. Palace of Peterhoff.</p>	1
<p>II. Journey to Moscow. Manner of travelling. Novogorod. Tweer. Prince Dolghorucki, the emperor's favourite. A private adventure of Peter the Great.</p>	9
<p>III. Assembly at the Polish minister's. Character of princess Catherine Dolghorucki. Her engagement to a German nobleman. A Russian christening and wedding.</p>	17
<p>IV. Princess Dolghorucki betrothed to the emperor. The ceremony de- scribed. Her affecting interview with her former lover. Descrip- tion of the emperor.</p>	22
<p>V. Ceremony of blessing the waters. Death of the emperor. Proclama- tion of the empress Anne. Fortitude of the betrothed princess.</p>	28
A 2	VI. Journal

LETT.

Page

- VI. *Journal of a day. A house formerly prince Menzikoff's. Monasteries. Visit to an abbot. Nunnery for ladies of quality. Account of the empress dowager Eudoxia.* 36
- VII. *Account of the empress dowager continued. One of her gentlemen tortured and put to death by Peter the Great. Her confinement. Her notice of the author. Her person described.* 43
- VIII. *Illness of the author's husband, Mr. W—. Her anxiety.* 50
- IX. *Reflections consequent to Mr. W—'s death.* 52
- X. *Recommendation of a friend going to England.* 54
- XI. *Proposal of marriage made to the author and rejected. Singular punishment inflicted on a male coquette.* 56
- XII. *Character of Mr. R—. Banishment of the Dolghorucki family; Prince Menzikoff's children recalled.* 62
- XIII. *The author's marriage to Mr. R—. Preparations for their journey to Petersburg.* 67
- XIV. *The*

- XIV. *The empress's reception at Petersburg. Description and characters of her majesty, the dutchess of Mecklenburgh, princess Anne, princess Elizabeth, and the count and countess of Biron.* 69
- XV. *The author's recovery from a lying-in. Satirical turn of her own sex. Whimsical adventure in her journey from Moscow. Visit and present from a Russian nobleman.* 76
- XVI. *Arrival of Turkish, Tartar, and Chinese ambassadors. Their persons and characters. Conversation of the Chinese with the empress and with Mr. R—. Surprising salutation of the Polish minister.* 81
- XVII. *A working party at the countess of Biron's. Condescension and humanity of the empress. More particulars of her character. A journey to the camp apprehended.* 87
- XVIII. *More apprehensions. A birth-day at court. The scene picturesque and romantic. Description of the author's country-seat. Her rural amusements.* 92
- XIX. *Rejoicings*

LETT.	Page
XIX. <i>Rejoicings for the taking of Dantzick. Public dinner and ball. French prisoners introduced. Speech of the empress to their leader. His answer, and conversation with the author.</i>	98
XX. <i>Farther particulars of the princesses Elizabeth and Anne. History of a Swedish lady taken prisoner by the Tartars.</i>	105
XXI. <i>A Tartar prince and his family converted and christened. Pompous burial of the lady and child of count Gustavus Biren. Affecting scene of the husband.</i>	111
XXII. <i>Characters of count Munich and the prince of Hesse Homburgh.</i>	118
XXIII. <i>Feuds between two ladies of foreign ministers. Parties formed on the occasion.</i>	124
XXIV. <i>Indiscreet marriage of a lady in England. A young Englishman introduced by the author to the empress and count Munich.</i>	130
XXV. <i>The young Englishman made an officer. Apology for the indiscreet young lady.</i>	135
2	XXVI. <i>Meanness</i>

XXVI. *Meanness of count D—.*

King of Prussia and his tall grenadiers. A Potsdam Cupid in tapestry. An unfinished palace of Peter the Great.

139

XXVII. *A dangerous court diversion. The author excused by the empress. Sure method of reconciling a difference.*

144

XXVIII. *Characters of the duke and dutchess of Courland.*

149

XXIX. *Farther particulars of them. Character and rise of count Osterman.*

154

XXX. *Characters of prince Czeraskoi and count Jyagosenki. Humanity of the latter.*

158

XXXI. *Accident that happened to the Polish ambassador's lady. Her courage, or levity. Characters of two other Polish ladies.*

164

XXXII. *The author's excuse for venturing over the river. Characters of the Russian officers and courtiers. Fashionable diversion of shooting at a mark.*

169

XXXIII. *Characters*

LETT.	Page
XXXIII. <i>Characters of madam Arcaſs (governeſs to princeſs Anne) and her daughter.</i>	173
XXXIV. <i>Amour of madam Lapuchin, and count Levenwalt. Con- nivance of her huſband.</i>	177
XXXV. <i>Spirit of a noble Venetian lady married in Ruſſia.</i>	180
XXXVI. <i>Preparations for the wed- ding of the princeſs Anne, and An- thony prince of Brunſwick. His perſon deſcribed. Her reſuſal of the prince of Courland.</i>	185
XXXVII. <i>Particulars of the pro- ceſſion, dreſſes, and marriage cere- mony. A week's feaſting, maſque- rades, quadrilles, &c. The bride's contempt of her huſband.</i>	189



[2]

LETTERS, &c.

LETTER I.

Petersburgh, Feb. 1729-30.

Dear Madam,

YOU, who are mistress of so much philosophy, are excusable for fancying that, now the ceremony of our reception is over, I may be composed enough to give you some account of the place my rambling planet has thrown me into; but for me, who have strong passions, and that inseparable companion of them, weak reason, I cannot so soon forget my friends

B

and

and country, but am (notwithstanding the mask I wore before my departure) feeling those passions with a double force that were restrained in the fatal hour of separation. However as, I know, your good-nature (though you have no other notion of these female infirmities than to pity them in your friends) will make allowances for me, I will venture to give you some description of persons and things as they at present appear to me. Of the first I can only judge by sight, for the short time I have been here has not let me learn the language enough to have any conversation; so I can only say of the people, they are strong made, of a middle stature, and rather handsome than otherwise; but, I think, they have not much expression in their faces. As to Petersburg, it is pleasantly situated on a fine

river

river called the Neva; in regard to North, East, West, or South, you must excuse me, (though you would know exactly.) It consists of three islands; on one stands the Admiralty, from which it takes its name; also the summer and winter palaces. The second is called Petersburgh-island, in which are the citadel and a fine church, wherein is interred the body of your hero, Peter the First, with his last empress, Catherine, and several of his children *. The third is called Basil's island, on which are the exchange, the market, and the courts of justice and trade (called here colleges) and other public buildings. Here the merchants were designed to live; but though the houses and streets are very handsome, they are mostly uninhabited, for the Admiralty-island is by much the most

* All his successors also have since been interred there, except Peter III.

populous. The winter-palace is small *, built round a court, is far from handsome, has a great number of little rooms ill-contrived, and nothing remarkable either in architecture, painting, or furniture. The summer-palace is still smaller, and in all respects mean, except the gardens, which are pretty (for this country, fine) with a good deal of shade and water. The best idea I can give you of it is Boughton †. A mile from the town is the monastery of St. Alexander Newski ‡.

* It has since been rebuilt by the empress Elizabeth, and is now very large and heavy.

† The duke of Montagu's seat in Northamptonshire.

‡ In this convent are deposited the pretended remains of that saint, for which the empress Elizabeth ordered a silver shrine to be made, which lies on a superb monument, covered with silver plates of a considerable thickness. The body of the late Peter III. was exposed there some days, to convince the people that

The legend of this faint I do not know, but the monastery was begun by Peter the First, and will be very fine, if ever it is finished; and he instituted an order in honour of this faint, called by his name; it is the second order, the ribbon red*. The river Neva runs close to the gardens of

that he had not suffered any violence, but ended his life naturally. He was afterwards privately interred there.

* This order was indeed instituted by Peter I. but the czarina Catherine first conferred it in the year 1725.

The two other orders are, that of St. Andrew, or the blue ribbon, the first and most honourable, instituted by Peter I. in 1698, in honour of St. Andrew, the patron of Russia; and the third is a female order, founded by Peter I. in 1714, in honour of his consort Catherine, and from her named the order of St. Catherine.

“These honours,” as Voltaire observes, “command respect, cost the sovereign nothing, and flatter those who receive them, without adding to their power.”

the monastery, and winds from the town in beautiful mæanders, such as your poetical genius would make a perpetual entertainment. There are many fine houses in the town belonging to the nobility, but now, in the absence of the court, quite empty; most of them have pretty gardens; near one of these I am placed, where I often walk, and think on all I left behind—but you cry out, “Away with weakness, and pursue your tale;” and I sigh, and obey—I am just returned from a ramble of a week; the company Mr. W. Mr. R. another gentleman, a lady, and myself. I wondered to hear our beds were to go, but was passive. We went the first day about twenty miles to see some paper-mills, but chiefly for the prospect, which is indeed delightful. There are no public houses; the man who has the care of the works, entertains all strangers, and
has

has an allowance for it from the government. He gave us a very good supper, and two empty rooms to lie in. Our lodging was straw, and our beds were laid upon it; and this was our accommodation all the time we were out. The next day we went to Peterhoff, a country-seat belonging to the czar. The palace is small, and stands on a hill sixty feet high, about half a mile from the sea. The valley between the palace and the sea is covered with a thick wood, which is cut into walks and alleys intermixed with jet d'eaux and fountains. In the large vifto at the front of the palace is a canal that runs into the sea; there are also several summer-houses * on the edge of the sea. The palace commands a prof-

* One of these summer-houses, famed for its curious painting, is distinguished by the name of *Mon plaisir*, *My delight*.

pect of the harbour of Cronstadt, and the coast of Finland; here are some good pictures, but much spoiled for want of care *. We are to set out for Moscow soon, from whence you may expect more impertinence from,

Dear Madam,

Yours, &c.

* Contiguous to the winter-palace (above-mentioned) the present empress has built a small one, called *The Hermitage*; in which are two galleries of paintings lately purchased at an immense expence in Italy, with the richest crown (perhaps) in Europe, and in the sceptre a diamond far larger than Pitt's, purchased by Prince Orlov in 1774 for about 120,000 l. sterling, and by him presented to his sovereign mistress.

LET-

L E T T E R II.

Moscow, April 1730.

Dear Madam,

ACCORDING to your commands,
 without preface, I shall give you
 some account of my journey from Pe-
 terburgh to this place. We set out on
 the 5th of March in sledges; they are
 like a cradle made of wood, and co-
 vered with leather. You lie down on
 a bed dressed and covered with furs:
 they hold but one person, which makes
 it very disagreeable, as you have no
 body to speak to. We travelled night
 and day, and arrived here on the 9th.
 You will say, I skip over the journey
 very fast; but what shall I say? Our
 accommodation was one little smoaky
 room, where we stopped to change
 horses,

horses, and eat what we brought with us : the people were civil to the utmost of their power, but one really sees human nature so debased, and the poor wretches so low and poor, that they seem to have only the figures of human creatures. Except at these cots, which are placed at proper distances for change of horses, you seem to pass through an uninhabited country, with not a town or house to be seen, but only thick woods, which, as they were covered with snow, was a pretty romantic scene, and I often fancied the snow on stumps and shrubs formed all sorts of figures ; I saw bears, wolves, nay beaus among the branches of the trees, and often wished for you there, as you might have found a frozen lover of whom you need not have been afraid. I should beg pardon for saying we came through no town, for
we

we passed through Novogrod * and Tweer. The first famous for the monastery of St. Anthony †, who, as they tell you, came from Padua on a millstone, and brought treasure enough to build this monastery. The town is mean, though large; the houses all of wood, low, and little: the outside of the monastery is far from fine; the inside I did not see. Tweer is a pretty clean town, situated on the side of a hill, on the bank of the Volga; the buildings are of wood, and very neat. I have not yet seen enough of this city where I now am, to give any description of it. The emperor ‡ is

* Grod, or Gorod, in the Russian language signifies “city.”

† He died and was buried there in the year 1147.

‡ Peter II. who succeeded the empress Catherine in the year 1727, being then but twelve years

rarely seen, has no drawing-room, and seems fond of nothing but hunting. His great favourite, prince Dolgorucki, keeps him employed in this

years old. He was grandson of Peter the Great, being the son of the czarowitz Alexis, who died in prison, after having received sentence of death for a conspiracy against his father, in 1718. During the minority of Peter II. his predecessor Catherine had appointed prince Menzikoff (the favorite of Peter the Great) generalissimo by land and sea, and had prevailed on the regency to agree to a marriage between one of his daughters and the young czar Peter. But this emperor, resolving to punish the prince for the injuries he had done his father, and being heartily seconded in this design by the lords of his court, Menzikoff himself unwarily lending them arms against him by his rapines, extortions, and even personal insolence to the czar, he was thereupon disgraced, and banished, and his immense estate confiscated. MODERN HIST. Vol. xiii. p. 265.

sport, for fear of being supplanted. Since this young monarch lost his only sister *, about six months ago (who had an uncommon understanding) he is entirely governed by this young nobleman, who has, I hear, nothing conspicuous but his title. I have been visited by several of Mr. W—'s old acquaintance, one of whom was a courtier in your hero's time. She is a sensible woman, and entertains me with many of his private adventures. The following one I will relate, though long, as, I think, it shews he was not so savage as some have represented him. He had a violent passion for an officer's daughter named

To exhibit at one view the imperial succession of the present reigning family, which is often mentioned in these letters, a genealogical table is added at the end of the volume.

* Princess Nathalia.

Munce,

Munce, and used more assiduous means to gain her than monarchs are generally forced to ; at last she yielded, and became his public mistress, and for many years he loved her with a fondness rarely found. One fatal day he went to see a castle he had built in the sea, attended by his own and the foreign ministers. At their return, the Polish minister, by some accident, fell over the draw-bridge, and was drowned, notwithstanding all endeavours to save him. The emperor ordered all the papers in his pockets to be taken out, and sealed up, before all the company. On searching his pockets, a picture dropped, which the emperor took up, and, judge his surprize, when he found it was the portrait of the lady. In a sudden gust of passion he tore open some of the papers, and found several letters from her written
to

to the deceased in the tenderest style. He left the company that instant, came alone to the apartment of my informant, and ordered her to send for the lady thither. When she entered, he locked the door on them three, and asked her how she came to write to such a person? She denied she had; he then produced the picture and letters, and when he told her of his death, she burst into tears, while he reproached her with ingratitude in such a storm of passion, that my author expected to see her murdered; but on a sudden, he also melted into tears, and said, he forgave her, since he so severely felt how impossible it was to conquer inclination; “for,” he added, “notwithstanding you have returned my
 “fondness with falsehood, I find I cannot hate you, though I do myself
 “for the meanness of spirit I am guilty
 “of;

“ of ; but it would be quite despicable
 “ in me to continue to live with you ;
 “ therefore be gone, while I can keep
 “ my passion within the bounds of
 “ humanity. You shall never want,
 “ but I will never see you more.” He
 kept his word, and soon after married
 her to one who had an employment at
 a distance, and was always kind to
 them in point of fortune. I insist on
 your reading this story to Mr. B—.
 Were he vested with this monarch’s
 power, what would you do ? But I
 leave him to make use of the theme
 I have given him, and am, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R I I I .

Moscow, Nov. 4, 1730.

Dear Madam,

YOUR last letter is kind and cruel. You say a great many obliging things, give an account of many of my friends, but forbid me to say any thing of them, or ask any questions, but directly answer the enquiries you make. This is very tyrannical, but I must obey. As to your first question, what conversation I have? it is hard to answer. I daily converse with people of high rank. The Polish minister's lady has an assembly every night, where all the people of fashion meet; but to my great mortification, the greatest part meet to play, though no-body is pressed to it. As I still am

C

amazed

amazed how rational minds can fall into this trifling yet dangerous amusement, I need not tell you, I am a spectator, and moralize on human weakness, as, you know, Miss Bell used to tell me. For some time past I have met with a young lady who does not play, whether from the same stupid mind that I have, or from her heart being filled with a softer passion, I will not determine. She has softness, good-nature, good-sense, and politeness, inclosed in a pretty person of eighteen. She is sister to the favourite prince Dolghorucki. The German ambassador's brother is her beloved object; all things are agreed upon, and they only wait some forms necessary in his country, to be (I hope) happy. She seems very fond of marrying out of her own country, shews great civility to foreigners, and a strong
love

love to him, and he to her. At this assembly you go away when you will, and no-body asks you a question ; there is a supper for those that will stay, and, I fancy, one might find agreeable conversation, if cards were not known in Russia. Your next question about their religion I can say but little of, as I speak very little of the language. It seems to consist in outward form and much superstition. I have seen a christening and a wedding ; the child was dipped three times in a tub of water ; the gossips had every one a wax candle in their hands ; after the child had been dipped, the priest, (who, by the way, was very drunk) put on the shirt, and then exorcised it, and at the end of every sentence, he and the gossips spit, to shew they triumphed over the devil. The wedding was of one of my servants ;

the match was proposed to the girl's parents, and they approving of it, came in form to ask my consent; when that was obtained, the man sent her a present, consisting of a comb, some paint, and patches; then he was admitted to see her for the first time; they gave each other a ring, and a promise of marriage, and the wedding was appointed for that day se'ennight. From that time to the day of the wedding, the girls of her acquaintance took turns to be with her night and day, continually singing songs to bemoan her loss out of their society: when the day came, they took a formal leave of her with many tears; and the man's relations came to fetch her, and her fortune, which was a bed and bedding, a table, and a picture of her patron saint. My own maid was admitted to go with her, which was a
great

great favour, for none of the women's friends are permitted to go with them. As to the rest, I must refer you to the Bible, to satisfy your curiosity, and that I may not hinder you from so good a study, I'll take my leave.

L E T T E R I V.

Moscow, Dec. 20, 1730.

Dear Madam,

YOU are not like to be quit of my impertinence, though you have so long let me languish in vain for a line from you. Since my last, here has been a surprising alteration. The young monarch (at his favourite's instigation, as is supposed) has declared his resolution of marrying the pretty princess Dolghorucki mentioned in my last. What a cruel disappointment to two people whose whole hearts were engaged ! but this is a country where there is no refusal to be made. Two days ago was the ceremony of his declaring it publicly, or, as they call it, being promised. She was brought the day before to a nobleman's house
near

near the palace, where she is to stay till she is married. Every person of fashion was invited, and the company were placed on benches in a large room, the officers of the crown and natives of distinction on one side, and the foreign ministers and foreigners of fashion on the other. At the upper end of the room was a canopy, with two armed chairs under it, and an altar before them, on which lay a Bible. A great number of the clergy were placed on each side of the altar; when every body was placed, the emperor came into the room, and talked to some people a few minutes; she was brought from the house where she lodged in one of his coaches, with her mother and sister in the coach with her; her brother, as lord high chamberlain, went in a coach before, and a great train of the emperor's coaches

followed. Her brother handed her to the door of the room, where her imperial lover received her, handed her to one of the chairs, and seated himself in the other. The pretty victim (for so I think her) was dressed in a stiffened bodied gown of silver tissue; her hair curled, and four tresses, with a great many jewels, and a little coronet at the top of her head; her train was very long, and not supported; her looks were composed, but very melancholy and pale. After they had sat some time, they rose and went to the altar, where he declared he took her as his wife; he then gave her his ring, and she gave him another, and he tied his picture on her right wrist: then they kissed the Bible, the archbishop of Novogorod made a short prayer, and the emperor saluted her. When they were seated again,
 he

he named the officers and ladies of her court, and desired they would then go into waiting. They came to kiss her hand; the lover held her right hand in his, and gave it to every one as they came up, for all the company paid that compliment; at last, to the surprise of every body, came the unhappy forsaken swain: before, she had sat all the time with her eyes fixed on the floor, but now she started, snatched her hand out of the emperor's, and gave it the other to kiss, having, at that instant, ten thousand different passions painted in her face. The young monarch blushed, but a crowd of others came to pay their devoirs, and the friends of the gentleman got him out, put him into a sledge, and got him out of town as fast as possible. The thing was rash and imprudent to the last degree, and, I dare say, a surprise

prise to her. The young monarch began the ball with her, which soon ended, to her great relief, as I judge, for all her composure was gone after this rash action, and she had nothing but fear and distraction in her looks. After the ball was ended, she was conducted back to the same house, but she now went in the emperor's body-coach, with the imperial crown on the top, and alone, attended by guards. But you will blame me for giving no description of the emperor. He is very tall, and large-made, for his age, being but just turned of fifteen; he is fair, but much tanned with hunting, has good features, but a down look, and though he is young and handsome, has nothing attractive nor agreeable. He was dressed in a light-coloured cloth, trimmed with silver. Thus this lady is now looked on as an empress,

press, and yet, I fancy, if one could see her heart, all her grandeur does not ease the pains of a disappointed passion; and indeed it must be a mean soul that can quit love, or friendship, for dominion. Do not give way to idleness, but remember there is such a creature as, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R V.

Moscow, Feb. 1730-1.

Dear Madam,

THE anxiety you have been under for me is very kind, and I should sooner have relieved you, had the post been allowed to pass. I send this by a messenger that is dispatched by a minister, as not knowing how one by the post may fare; though now all things seem in the old channel. When I last wrote, all the world (that is, our world) were preparing for the great wedding; this went on, fixed for the nineteenth of January. On the sixth of January is always a great ceremony which they call "blessing the waters," in imitation of our Saviour's being baptised by St. John.

It

It is customary for the sovereign to be present at the head of the troops, who are drawn out on the ice, that day. The poor, pretty empress elect was to be seen that day in public. She went by my house with guards, and a train, as pompous as can be imagined. She was by herself in an open sledge, dressed as she was at the ceremony of her being contracted; and (according to the gallantry of this country) the emperor stood behind her sledge. It was the coldest day I ever felt, and I dreaded going to court to dinner, where every body was invited and assembled to receive the young sovereigns on their return. They were upon the ice among the troops four hours. As soon as they got into the room, the emperor complained of the head-ach; this was at first taken to proceed from the cold; but on repeated

peated complaints, his physician was called, who said he must go to bed, for he was very ill. This broke up all the company. The princess had all the day a melancholy composure, which had no alteration on this accident; and she took leave of her acquaintance, as she met them, with a serious affability (if I may so express it.) The next day the small pox appeared on the emperor, and on the nineteenth, the day appointed for his marriage, about three in the morning, he died. I believe, most people in the town sat up that night, at least we did, as it was known in the evening how ill he was, and no one could tell what would be the consequence, as there might have been great disputes about the succession *. About nine

* According to the will of the empress Catherine, her eldest daughter Anne Petrowna, dutchess

the next morning the dutchess dowager of Courland was proclaimed empress. She is the second daughter of czar John, Peter the First's eldest brother. This czar John left three daughters. The eldest is married to the duke of Mecklenburgh, and on his being driven out of his dominions, she came back hither, where she now is with her only

dutchess of Holstein, ought to have been called to the throne: but she died the year after her mother, and left behind her a son, (afterwards the unfortunate Peter III.) who was then about two years old. The prospect of so long a minority determined the senate and nobility to set aside Catherine's will, under pretence of its being vacated by a declaration of the late emperor, who, they said, had appointed, on his death-bed, another successor; though at first they could not agree who they should declare this successor to be: by which it was very manifest, that, notwithstanding their assertions, the young emperor, in reality, made no such declaration. MODERN HIST. Vol. xiii. p. 265.

daughter.

daughter. The second was married to the late duke of Courland, who did not live above six weeks after his marriage; and she has continued a widow. The third is still here, unmarried. As all the male heirs of Peter the First are extinct, they have gone to the female heirs of his eldest brother; and the reason they did not take the eldest sister was because she has a husband, and a turbulent one. The new empress is in Courland, but is soon expected here. I fancy, your good-nature is alarmed about the poor young lady who was torn from the man she loved, and is now deprived of even the poor recompence of grandeur. I am told, she bears it heroically. She says, “ she mourns the loss as a member of the empire, as a private person “ she rejoices, since his death has freed “ her from greater tortures, than the greatest

"greatest tyrant, or the most artful
 "cruelty, could invent." In regard
 to her future fortune she is very indif-
 ferent. As she imagines her inclina-
 tions will be forced, all bodily suffering
 she can bear with ease. A gentleman,
 who has seen her, gave me this account
 of her conversation with him. He
 says, he found her quite abandoned,
 with only one maid and a footman,
 who had attended her from her
 childhood; when he shewed some
 indignation at it, she said, "Sir, you
 "do not know our country;" and to
 what I have already mentioned she
 added, that "from her youth and in-
 "nocence, and the known goodness
 "of the successor, she hoped she should
 "not have any public insult, and pri-
 "vate penury would be nothing; for
 "her mind was filled with one object,
 "which would make any kind of soli-

D

"tude

“ tude agreeable to her.” Finding he
 seemed to think she meant her former
 lover by the “ one object” she men-
 tioned, she hastily added, that “ she had
 “ forbid her heart to think of him
 “ from the moment it had become
 “ criminal for her to have thought of
 “ him, but she meant her family,
 “ whose conduct, she was sensible,
 “ would be censured; and she could
 “ not divest herself of natural affec-
 “ tion, though they had made her a
 “ sacrifice for what would now prove
 “ their ruin.” You, dear madam,
 who always think so rightly, have no
 need of such a scene to make you re-
 flect how trifling are all our worldly
 pursuits; that every hour of our lives
 tells us how frail and frivolous are
 our joys; and it should comfort us,
 under all disappointments, to think
 that nothing in this world is of long
 duration.

duration. But if I indulge this style; I shall grow dull, and it is lucky that I am told the messenger stays; so I shall only add, we are under no apprehensions for our lives, or effects, now; and that while we (at least I) were so, I behaved with more resolution than you would think, as you know the cowardice of, &c.

L E T T E R VI.

Moscow, 1731.

Dear Madam,

I Thank you for the chairs. They are very pretty, and I am hard at work ; but since you command, I shall continue my long letters to you, though I wonder you should desire more than two lines after you have had so many tedious epistles, which I fancy to be like Gabriel John, that has a preface, and a postscript, and a little something between, wherein the principal part of the book comes in by the bye. You ask me, how I spend my time ? I'll give you a journal of one day : and so few incidents happen to make any variation, that you may guess, by that, what I have been doing
ever

ever since I left the neighbourly society. I rise at six, so ungenteel I am grown; have done looking about, and giving orders in the family, to come to breakfast, by eight; when that is over, I spend an hour with my instructor in French; then retire to my room, and either work, or read, till twelve, when I dress for dinner at one; after dinner, we chat a little; then I work, or read again, till six, when we either go out to take the air in the coach, or walk till eight; at which hour we always sup, and go to bed at ten. And this is pretty near a constant circle; unless sometimes going from seven to eight to the assembly I have mentioned in some of my letters. The country about this city is fine; woods, water, and corn-fields compose a sweet landscape. As the gentlemen have much more conversation than women,

they are often engaged ; so that I frequently drive out by myself, to all appearance, but at those times your ladyship is my constant companion ; in one of these rambles we found out a house which was formerly prince Menzikoff's *, tho' now uninhabited :

* This prince, Peter the Great's favourite, was originally servant to a pastry-cook. Peter, hearing him cry puffs and sing ballads, was diverted with one of them, and sending for him, asked him if he would sell his pies and his basket. The boy answered, that " his business was to sell his pies, but he must ask his master's leave to sell his basket ; yet as every thing belonged to his prince, his majesty had only to lay his commands upon him." The czar was so pleased with this answer, that he immediately ordered him to court, where he gave him at first a mean employment : but being every day more pleased with his wit, he placed him about his person, and made him groom of his bed-chamber, from whence he gradually rose to the highest employments,

it stands in a fine lawn, with a large pond before and another behind it; the lawn is surrounded by a thick wood, through which there is no regular walk; but through several windings, quite natural, you pop into the lawn. Here we often alight and walk; but I have one alloy to that pleasure, a vast many frogs. You cry, "What affectation! to be afraid of a poor frog!" but consider, that I can no more conquer my aversion to them, than you can yours to an importunate lover, though, I really believe, neither of them design to hurt us. There are a great number of monasteries about this city, within three or four or five miles: they are very old, but

ments, and at length acquired such knowledge and skill, as to become one of the bravest and most successful generals in Russia. For an account of his subsequent disgrace and banishment, see p. 12, note.

not fine. Some of them have one piece of magnificence, that the spires and towers are gilt on the outside. This must have been very expensive, and they have generally great riches within their chapels. I have been to visit the abbot of one of them, who entertained us very civilly with coffee, tea, and sweetmeats. At last he said, he must treat us after the manner of his country; and then we had a table spread with pease, beans, turnips, carrots, &c. all raw, and mead, ale, and brandy; in short, Monsieur L'Abbé was a gay, good-natured man, and we spent an afternoon very agreeably. About three miles from hence is a nunnery for ladies of quality*, which is the empress dowager's, as she is now called, but I mean Peter

* The convent *des filles nobles*.

the First's first wife *. As soon as her grandson came to the throne, she left

* This lady was born at Moscow in the year 1670. Her name was Eudoxia Fœderowna. It is difficult to say which were superior, the beauties of her person, or those of her mind. She was married to Peter in the year 1689, and had by him the czarowitz Alexis, and several other children who died young. After being repudiated, she was confined in the monastery of Susdal, thirty miles from Moscow, where she was obliged to take the vows under the order of St. Basil. On the accession of Catherine she was removed to Schlusselburg *, where she was imprisoned in a dungeon, from which she was not released till her grandson Peter II. ascended the throne. She died in 1737. For several more curious particulars of this unfortunate empress, see her history in the chevalier D'Eon's *Literary Amusements* lately published, which in general agrees with that here given in Letter VII.

* A strong fort on a small island in the middle of the Neva, taken by Peter I. in 1702, and so styled by him as the key (Schlussel) of his conquests.

the

the monastery, where she had been long confined as a prisoner, for this, where she has a regular court as dowager. She and all the nuns go out when they will, but in their habits. I expect a description of the sweet habitation, where, I suppose, this will find you, as I was so often disappointed of seeing it, though so civilly invited by the generous owner, to whom I am, as well as to you, madam, &c.

LET-

LETTER VII.

Moscow, 1731.

Dear Madam,

YOU seem quite impatient to know the history of the empress dowager. Those things are so differently related, according as affection or interest leads, that it is hard to judge of the truth; but the following account is, I believe, a pretty just one. Her name is Eudoxia, of the noble family of Lapuchin. The czar married her when he was very young*, and by her had one son †, who was afterwards put to death, but left a son and daughter behind him. After some years

* He was then 17.

† Alexis, czarowitz.

See the genealogical table at the end.

marriage

marriage he grew weary of her, and pretended jealousy; she was, on this suspicion, confined, and all her nearest relations, and several of the gentlemen of her court, taken up, and, according to the custom of this country, examined by torture; but none of them accused her, though they had offers of pardon, if they would. These examinations lasted some months, in which time about fourteen of her nearest relations were put to death; and one of her gentlemen *, of whom Peter had the greatest suspicion, underwent such repeated tortures as it was thought no creature could have borne, with great constancy, persisting in his own and her innocence during his torments. At last the czar himself came to him, and offered him pardon, if he would

* Glebow, an officer in the neighbourhood of Rostoff.

confess. He spit in the czar's face,
and told him, " he should disdain to
" speak to him, but he thought himself
" obliged to clear his mistress, who
" was as virtuous a woman as any in
" the world ; and (said he) the only
" weakness I knew her guilty of, is
" loving thee, thou inhuman butcher ;
" and if any thing can make me think
" thee more a devil than thy cruel
" treatment of her, it is fancying I
" could ever be brought to accuse an
" innocent person to save myself ; for
" could my body hold out these tor-
" ments as long as thou shalt plague
" the world, I could suffer them with
" pleasure, rather than relieve them by
" such falsehood *." After this, he

* M. D'Eon says, " the poor mangled body
" in expiring opened its mouth only to spit in
" his face, saying, ' Go, tyrant, and let me
" die in peace.'

would.

would speak no more. And when no confession could be got from him, he was beheaded, and she confined in a monastery * at a distance, without being suffered to see any one but the person who brought her food, which she dressed herself, for she had no servant to do the most slavish offices, not more than one cell for her person. Just before he married the empress Catherine, she was said to be dead, and was believed to be so, till her grandson came to the throne, and then she appeared at court, though she would not live there, but retired to this monastery, where she has a court and appointments as dowager, but will not quit her nun's habit. What va-

* Situated on the lake Ladoga ; from whence she was removed to Schlusfelburg, on the accession of Catherine.

rious scenes of misery has this unfortunate princess experienced! and surely the hardest must be the death of the late young monarch, her grandson, as that sudden loss came when she seemed to have surmounted her greatest difficulties. The present empress pays her great respect, and often goes in person to visit her. She was present at the coronation, in a box built on purpose, where she could not be seen. When the ceremony was over, the empress went into the box to her, embraced her, kissed her, and desired her friendship, and they both shed tears. As she came privately into the church before the ceremony began, so she stayed some time after till her coach could come up, for she would not appear at the dinner, on account of her habit. Several people expressed a desire to pay their compliments to her while she

stayed

stayed in the church, and she admitted
 it. You may guess, your humble
 servant was among them, and I had
 luckily an opportunity of looking a
 great deal at her, for being that day
 in the English dress (for reasons too
 long and trifling to repeat) she asked,
 “ who I was,” and desired me to come
 near, that she might look at my dress.
 She said, “ she had heard that England
 “ was famous for pretty women, and
 “ she believed they were so, for the
 “ dress was not calculated to add to
 “ their beauty, particularly that of
 “ the head, but she thought the rest of
 “ the dress very pretty, and much
 “ more decent than any she had seen,
 “ as it did not shew the neck so
 “ much :” said many flattering things
 of my person, shape, &c. and invited
 me to her court, the arts and man-
 ners of which, you see, she has not
 forgot.

forgot. She is now fat, and in years, but has the remains of a fine person. She has great gravity and composure in her face, mixed with softness, and an uncommon vivacity in her eyes, with which she has a look that seems as if she would read the hearts of those that approach her in their faces. But if her story affects you as much as it has done me, you will be glad I should say adieu, &c.

E

LET.

L E T T E R VIII.

Moscow, 1731.

Dear Madam,

YOU will not wonder at my silence as to the person and character of our new sovereign, when I tell you I have not been nearer her than seeing her at her coronation; for though there have been masquerades and balls at court and the foreign ministers houses (whom she has honoured with her presence) and a regular drawing-room twice a week, I have been at none of them. Poor Mr. W— has been very ill, and still continues so: my mind suffers the most cruel torture for him, and my fears find much danger in his illness. Oh! had I a little of your philosophy on this occasion!

but,

but, alas ! I have not one grain, though I hourly strive to arm my mind to support the shock I dread with decency. Now I doubly feel the absence of my friends, and yours in particular, whose tenderness and strength of reason would soothe and argue me into a little fortitude. Chance has brought me acquainted with a gentleman and his wife, who are very kind ; they hardly ever leave me, and as he is easy with them about him, relieve me by nursing sometimes while I sleep, and are now both with him, that I may go to bed, which I have not done these three nights, but caught this moment, before I enjoy that rest, to assure you, that, in all vicissitudes, I am, &c.

L E T T E R IX.

Moscow, 1731.

Dear Madam,

I Am greatly obliged to you for the kind concern you express for me. I am better in health than I could expect, but dare not tell you the state of my mind : your sentiments are so much above the weakness of human nature, that you can hardly allow affections the weakness, that will attend on those whose minds are formed for soft passions ; for yours, though very humane, I look on as of the masculine kind, and when you are afflicted, you would scorn the womanish relief of tears ; though you might allow less minds that childish folly in the first attack of sorrow, yet you would expect,

pect, after the first transport of passion was over, that reason, resolution, and resignation should take place. I will admire your way of thinking, but do now (as I long have done) despair of being able to follow your example. I am engaged in a vast deal of business, so hope, if I am not so regular a correspondent, you will forgive me. I flatter myself with the pleasing prospect of returning to England next summer, and then your conversation will, I hope, form my mind to submission, and teach me to behave as I ought, in order to preserve the title of, &c.

LETTER X.

Moscow, 1731.

Dear Madam,

I Have as punctually obeyed your injunctions of constantly thinking of you, as I have accepted of your indulgence of not answering your letter while my load of business lasted. When it will decrease I can give no guess, for, I think, it increases, and I have hardly time to recommend the bearer, Mr. H—, to your friendship and countenance, as he is a stranger to our country and language. He is that friend I mentioned who was so good to me in Mr. W—'s illness. His wife stays with me, during his residence in England, which will be

no

no longer than a family affair obliges him. He has great good-nature, and a good deal of humour, and, I think, will entertain you. To him I refer you for all questions you may ask about

Yours, &c.

LETTER XI.

Moscow, 1732.

Dear Madam,

I Am, in the first place, to return you thanks for the civility you shew to my friend. I imagined his conversation would please you, and as, I find, I am not mistaken, can hardly repent the sending him, though he has very ill requited the happiness I procured him of your acquaintance by the idle story he has told you of the gentleman you were so merry about, or, I should rather say, so grave, for I almost think you in earnest; though I would not willingly think so, because it would make me angry. You say, “you hope soon to wish me joy, as, you hear, the gentleman has a
 7 “title,

"title, a ribbon, a pompous equipage, and a great estate." Can you have so mean, so contemptible a thought of me, to imagine these would be of any weight? To me these have no charms, unless that tender monitor, the heart, attends the choice of the person who is to confer the honour; and when that soft dictator is reluctant, or silent, it must be either a sordid soul, or a very trifling mind, that can be charmed with what is so often the decoration of a fool or knave. Not that I would be understood to mean any reflection on the person in question. I believe the man has great merit; so, I think, had my grandfather, but I should not have thought of marrying him. I fancy, by this time, you think there is some truth in this affair, since I seem to fire a good deal upon it. I own there is, so far that he has
run

run through all the nonsense all men (except very few who think above the vulgar) believe pleases our sex, and has really taken pains to convince me he has an affection ; a thing I should not have expected from one of his country, as they are not used to ladies who either expect or desire that to be an ingredient in matrimony, nor do they know what it means, but when they find an estate and title, go through all that is to follow with great indifference, and would wonder what you meant by saying you would not marry a man because you could not love him, for they have no idea what you mean by the word. Some grave lectures I have had on this occasion convince me that our own country produces people who think like them, and a mind, well-adorned with what is commonly called “ worldly,” seems to think

think all considerations, but fortune, romantic. I long to tell you a story, to give you a specimen of the delicacy of our northern beaux and belles; but your prudery, (I beg pardon, your prudence,) frights me: however, I cannot resist; so pop your fan before your face, for I am going to begin. Here is a young fellow of fashion who has made the tour of France, &c. At his return he fell in company with three or four pretty women at a friend's house, where he danced, sung, laughed, was very free with the ladies, and behaved *alamode de Paris*; as he assured the gazing audience of his airs, his next step was his bragging of their fondness for him, and the passion with which he had inspired each of them; this he repeated in all companies, till at last it reached the ears of *Messrs. leurs maris* (for they were all married women)

women) who looked glum for some time in silence, and at last in a surly way expressed the cause of their ill-humour in plain terms. The ladies desired he might be brought with them before the husbands ; so all these loving couples agreed that one of the nymphs should invite him to sup at her house, without saying who was to be there : he flew on the wings of love to the rendezvous, and was received with great gaiety ; but in the height of his raptures, she reproached him with the speeches he had made ; he denied them ; on which all the ladies and their husbands came in, witnesses of his guilt were produced, and he fairly convicted. The husbands pronounced sentence, which was, that the ladies should whip him ; some say, they actually did so ; others say, they ordered their maids to do it ; that the punishment

ment was inflicted with so much rigour, as to oblige him to keep his bed some days, is certain ; but whether the ladies were executioners, or spectators only, is a doubt. By this, judge of the state of gallantry in this northern climate.

Adieu, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R XII.

Moscow, 1732.

Dear Madam,

MR. H— is so full of raptures, that he talks only of you. His wife tells me she grows jealous, so pray take care; you have heard what punishments are the mode here on these occasions; and though, I believe, she would no more have thought of such a thing than you or I, when she first came, who knows what examples may do? and as she talks of going to England, take care of yourself.—Do you really expect an answer to the question you ask? Whether you do or not, I will give as true a one as I can; which is, that I am yet wavering, and cannot tell what will be the consequence.

quence. I think the person has merit, good-sense, (as far as I am a judge) with great good-nature and evenness of temper, if living in the house with him can inform me of his disposition. He is greatly esteemed by his own sex; but that, they say, is no motive of ours in our choice, so whether I shall act contrary to (what they say) the rest of my sex do, I cannot tell. I own, I highly esteem and value him; so I leave you to guess at the event, which, at present, I have not resolved upon. They say the court will go to Petersburg this winter; if so, my affairs will oblige me to follow them. You are very inquisitive, and I can say little to satisfy you, for I have not gone into any public place since my present state. The Dolghorucki family are all banished *, and the poor empress of the

* The princes Dolghorucki and their faction, who took upon them the management of the
suc-

day with them. They are gone to the very place where prince Menzikoff's children are. So the two ladies who were successively contracted to the young czar may chance to meet in banishment. Would not this make a pretty story for a tragedy? It is said, Menzikoff's children are recalled, and the same guards that carry these people are to bring them back. If this be true, it is generous, as their father

succession, assigned the new empress a council, framed a new constitution for the empire, and limited her authority as they thought proper; to which regulations she readily consented. But as soon as she was fixed upon the throne, she cancelled all these limitations, and banished the authors of them. MODERN HIST. Vol. xiii. p. 265.

Among other charges they were accused of forging a will of the emperor Peter II. in favour of the princess Catherine his betrothed wife.

was

was so implacable an enemy to the present czarina, that he even treated her with personal ill manners and language. You will perhaps wonder at the banishing women and children, but here, when the master of a family is attacked, the whole family is involved in his ruin, all estates belonging to them are seized, they are sunk from nobles to the condition of the meanest of people, and if one misses any that used to be in public, no-body enquires after them: sometimes we hear they are demolished, but when once in disgrace, they are never mentioned. If by good luck they are restored to favour, they are then caressed as usual, but no mention of what has past. But I am now telling you what you have heard a hundred times, and can say nothing of this place but you have heard related to much more advantage;

F

but

but you oblige me, by repeated commands, to weary you with trifling observations, of which I am ashamed, but trust your friendship that you only amuse yourself with them, but do not shew or read them to any one, lest you expose, &c.

LET-

I
yo
cer
ter
mu
as
mo
app
our
pro
and
will
rable

LETTER XIII.

Moscow, 1733.

Dear Madam,

IT will be no surprise to you to see that I have changed my name, since you seemed to be so sure how the uncertainty I was under in my last would terminate. I expect you should be much obliged to me for writing so soon, as I am much engaged with the ceremony of visits, and making the first appearance at court, and preparing for our journey to Peterburgh, which we propose to begin in ten days. Mr. H— and his lady go along with us, which will make the journey the more tolerable; for as the court is going, we

cannot have post-horses, so must lye
 in those cots I have before described,
 and shall be twelve days on the road.
 Company interrupts me, so must, till
 I get to Petersburg, take my leave,
 &c.

LETTER XIV.

Petersburgh, 1733.

Dear Madam,

THE picture you have drawn in imagination of my new "lord and master" (as you are pleased to style him) has a great resemblance; but since you suppose me so much engaged in tender passions, how can you expect me to tell you what public rejoicings were made on her majesty's arrival, and so many other things? In short, you have all the curiosity of grandame Eve, though you have escaped the pains intailed upon it, while I can no longer hide my being likely to feel those pains. This, Mr. H— tells me, he told you some time ago.

F 3

But

But to obey your orders ; her majesty was met two miles from the city by all the members of the courts of justice, the land and sea officers, the foreign merchants, the members of the academy, and foreign ministers. She passed under five triumphal arches built on this occasion. She then went to church, and after having been some time at her devotions, she got again into her coach, and went in the same pomp to the palace, where several speeches were made to congratulate her arrival. When this was over, she went to dinner, and there dined at the table with her the ministers of the first rank of her own court and their wives, and the foreign ministers and their wives, about eighty people in all. There were tables in other rooms for the rest of the company, and in the evening a ball. Now I have had time

and opportunity to observe the people about court, to begin with the head, the czarina; she is about my height, but a very large made woman, very well shaped for her size, and easy and graceful in her person. She has a brown complexion, black hair, dark and blue eyes; she has an awfulness in her countenance that strikes you at first sight, but when she speaks, she has a smile about her mouth that is inexpressibly sweet. She talks a good deal to every body, and has such an affability in her address, that you seem talking to an equal; and yet she does not, for one moment, drop the dignity of a sovereign. She seems to have great humanity, and is, I think, what one would call a fine agreeable woman, were she a private person. Her sister, the duchess of Mecklenburgh, has a fine face, a good complexion,

plexion, black eyes and hair, but is short and fat, and no way a good person. She is gay, and has a great deal of satirical wit. They neither of them speak any thing but Russ, but both understand a person that speaks German. The maiden sister died a little before the court came from Moscow. She was very ill when I saw her, but very handsome. The dutchess of Mecklenburgh's daughter, whom the czarina has adopted, and is now called the princess Anne *, is a child, not very handsome, and has such a natural bashfulness, that no judgment can be formed what she will be. She has as fine a woman, in all respects, for her governess, as, I think, can be found.

* Soon after married to prince Anthony of Brunswick Wolfenbuttle (See Letters. XXXVI. and XXXVII.) by whom she had the unfortunate czar Ivan. (or John). III.

The

The princess Elizabeth *, who is, you know, a daughter of Peter the First, is very handsome. She is very fair, with light brown hair, large sprightly blue eyes, fine teeth, and a pretty mouth. She is inclinable to be fat, but is very genteel, and dances better than any one I ever saw. She speaks German, French, and Italian, is extremely gay, and talks to every body, in a very proper manner, in the circle, but hates the ceremony of a court.

* Afterwards empress, in 1741, on the deposition of John III. (then an infant) grandson to the duke and dutchess of Mecklenburgh, and immediate successor to the empress Anne. The empress Elizabeth died Jan. 5, 1762, leaving the crown to her nephew Charles-Peter, grand duke of Russia, and duke of Holstein-Gottorp, afterwards Peter III. whose deposition and catastrophe are well known. The princess Catherine of Anhalt-Zerbst (the present empress) was married to him in 1745.

Count:

Count Biron * and his lady are the greatest favourites of her majesty, so much that they are considered as if the power was lodged in them. He is lord high chamberlain, and has a good person, but a look that is forbidding ; though, I believe, that does not shew his mind any more than it did in poor Sir Thomas W——, for he converses with affability enough. The countess is a little woman, very fine, so much pitted with the small pox, that she is seamed, but has the finest neck I ever saw. The dutchess of Mecklenburgh and the princess Elizabeth have each their own court in separate houses,

* A native of Courland, of mean extraction, whom the empress caused to be elected duke of Courland after the death of Ferdinand, the last prince of the house of Kettler. For a farther account of him and his lady, see Letters XXVIII. and XXIX.

though

though they keep no drawing room, but come to that of the czarina. Their way of seeing company is by your sending to know when you may be admitted ; and on their birth-days, &c. they see company at home in a morning, and at the czarina's court in the evening. The princess Anne is lodged in the palace, as the czarina's daughter. Our drawing-room is more like an assembly ; there is a circle in form, for about half an hour ; then the czarina and the princesses make their party at cards, and every body that pleases make their own party ; but I fancy you wish I was engaged in one now, and that I would bid you adieu, &c.

LET-

LETTER XV.

Petersburgh, 1733.

Dear Madam,

I Am now able to give you some account of myself with my own hand ; though really I look so pale and thin, that if you were to see me, I fancy you would not know your old friend, especially as Mr. H— informed you some time ago that I was grown a prude. That is so far from a natural character in me, that I still walk in trammels, and I still want the toss of the head and the contemptuous smile at the behaviour of younger people, and that emphatical shrug of the shoulders at the levity of young flirts, which are necessary to the character ;
but

but time does wonders. I am also practising a proper stile as, “ Yes, “ she is handsome, and has sense : “ some say, indeed, she is very fatirical, but I do not believe it any more than that she is in love with “ Mr. —.” “ The world is very “ malicious ” (of another) “ she may “ mean no harm, but young people “ should be cautious ; though the gentlemen say, she does all things right. “ I wish her well, and do not say this “ to make any reflection, &c.” But now I have said all this, I am almost afraid to trust even you ; for should you betray me, how I should be demolished ! I hope better things from your discretion, but I am still of the same mind (that you know I always was) to fear the satire of my own sex, for we are unmerciful enemies, and, it must be allowed, the other sex treat

us with more humanity than we do one another ; so if you give me up for treating your order a little too freely, I beg it may not be to ladies, for then I expect no quarter. But I am strongly tempted to tell you why he says I am grown a prude ; though, I own, the story ought to be concealed, and if I did not trust to your delicacy that secures it a secret, should not venture to tell you. In our journey from Moscow Mrs. H— and I had a great longing for clean linen, after we had been some days on the road, and coming to one of our huts to bait, where we saw only women, we begged our gentlemen to walk, while we put on clean linen : they did so, and I had just shifted myself, and she was going to do the same, when she looked up, and saw a Russ fellow lying asleep on the stove (which they often do in cold weather)

weather) she squalled at the sight of him, which brought her husband and mine into the room, as fearing some insult. They made themselves so merry with their being turned out, and this sweet swain being (as they said) admitted to our toilet, that I was piqued, and turned quite grave on their raillery, and ever since he has called me prude, and I sometimes assume the character to restrain the redundancy of gaiety his country is subject to. Methinks I hear you cry out, "Was the man really asleep?" Why, indeed, I believe he was, at least he looked so stupid, that it was the same thing. This letter is the right tittle-tattle of a gossiping, and is therefore in character; for though it is three months since I was brought to bed, I have not been out of my room yet; but as my spirits are good, I hope my
 strength

strength will soon come ; though, between you and me, as this is the first, I should be horribly frightened if I was to find myself in the same condition again. The day after I was brought to bed, a Russ nobleman came to see Mr. R—, and insisted on seeing me; he came into the room for a minute, made his compliments, and gave me a ducat, which he could not omit, as they fancy either the woman or the child will die, if they did not do it. This would have diverted me, if I had not been more dead than alive at that time. But I am really quite tired, and so must you ; so adieu, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R XVI.

Peterburgh, 1733.

Dear Madam,

I AM now set down to tell you strange stories of Turks, Tartars, and Chinese ; for here are ambassadors arrived from all those places. The Turk speaks French, and visits all the other ministers, which no others of his country ever were allowed to do ; but he said, if the court thought to hinder him, they might depend on the Russian minister's being so served at Constantino-ple. He dined with us not long since, and drank wine, when his servants were withdrawn. Some of the company drank the health of a famous beauty

G

in

in Paris : he said, with all his heart, "*Car elle est fort de mes amies.*" He has a fine person, has a great retinue, and all very well dressed, with the lively fallies of a Frenchman in conversation. The Tartars are odd figures ; their faces are almost quite flat, and the flatter they are, the greater beauty : here is one of their princes with his wife and children, to put himself under her majesty's protection against the insults of some of his neighbours. They are Mahometans, and are very mean.— They really eat horses, for I have seen three or four carried into their house at a time for their provision. The Chinese, as to their persons, are very like their pictures of them. The day they had their audience (which was in the morning) there was a ball at court ; when it was begun, they were brought into the room with their interpreter ; they seemed to observe every thing with

an air of curious rather than ignorant people. Her majesty asked the first of them (for there are three) which he thought the prettiest woman there? He said, "It would be difficult in "a star-light night to say which star "was the brightest:" but observing she expected him to say which he thought so, he bowed to the princess Elizabeth; "among such a number of "fine women, he thought her the "handsomest, and if she had not quite "so large eyes, no-body could see her "and live." Thus every country has its beauty; for our taste she has remarkably fine eyes. Her majesty asked him, of all the things they saw, that differed from their own customs, what appeared the most extraordinary?—He answered, "Seeing a woman on "the throne." Soon after this they were brought to a masquerade at court,

and were asked, if it did not appear odd to them? They answered, "No, " for all was masquerade to them." They were introduced to all the foreign ministers, and told from what princes they came. When they came to Mr. R—, they said, "They knew the English natives, for there were several " of them in their country," and called him "brother." Not long ago, as he and I were walking in the garden of the summer-palace, they were brought to see the gardens; when we met them, they embraced him, and one of them opened a little purse that hung by his side, and gave me a bit of black stuff that looked like Japan earth, but it is essence of bohea tea. They told Mr. R—, "they thought that the English " had been wiser than to suffer their " wives to come out and be at liberty, " but they were glad they had seen me,

as they had never seen an English-
 “ woman before, and they knew I had
 “ love and courage to come so far from
 “ my own country for any man upon
 “ earth.” An ambassador from Persia
 is soon expected, and if I can manage
 to pick a bit of the manner of every
 one of these different people, an excel-
 lent figure I shall make when we have
 the pleasure to meet. But none of these
 have so much surpris’d me as the Po-
 lish minister did. When he made his
 first visit, he ran up to me, and, as I
 thought he was going to kiss me, was
 considering if he would not beat out
 my teeth, he ran with such violence ;
 but he stopped short, and stooped in
 such a way that I clapped both my
 hands to my petticoats, and really both
 he and I were out of countenance ; and
 as Mr. R— betrayed me, it has caused
 much mirth.

I wish any thing would raise your curiosity enough to bring you here for a month, but your fears are stronger than your curiosity ; so I can only assure you this way, that I am, &c.

LET

LETTER XVII.

Peterburgh, 1734.

Dear Madam,

I Thank you for the patterns; they are very well done, and I perfectly understand the directions, how to fling the shade to make pillars look fluted. I do not wonder at your surprise, when you think I am going to undertake such a piece of work, but though I love work very well (which has been a happiness to me, as it has beguiled many a lonely hour) yet I should not think of so large a piece: it is for the countess of Biron, who has many hands to employ in it. She is a great lover of embroidery, and hearing I had some pieces of my own work, desired to see them; and she sends

for me two or three times a week to work. This has two things attending it that give me pleasure; one, that it is of advantage to Mr. R— in the station he is in; and the other, it gives me an opportunity of seeing the czarina in a way that could be done no otherwise; for she comes always into the room while we are at work. As her apartments join to the countess's, she goes and comes several times in an afternoon, and will be taken no notice of, by our rising. She sometimes sits down at the same frame, and works with us. She asks me many questions about England, particularly of the queen. She says, "she has so earnest a desire to see her, that she would meet her half way." She seems pleased when I try to speak Russ to her, and is so gracious, when I speak, as to teach me when at a loss, which is oftener than otherwise;

otherwise ; for I speak very little, but understand most of what passes, and have great pleasure in observing so much humanity in one who has such despotic power. There are generally five or six ladies, and one or two gentlemen, in the room, when she is there, who converse in a familiar manner ; in which conversation though she joins, as an equal, she still preserves her dignity, but so as to dissipate all awe. I have often seen her melt into tears at a melancholy story, and she shews such unaffected horror at any mark of cruelty, that her mind to me seems composed of the most amiable qualities that I have ever observed in any one person ; which seems a particular mark of the goodness of providence, as she is possessed of such power. Were I speaking of a private person, I should say, she had rather strong good sense than wit, tho' she
has

has a way of saying a short satirical sentence sometimes that is truly witty, but always tempered with so much good nature, that it never shocks. She has a great deal of courage, and scorns fearfulness, either real or affected; indeed she has no affectation in any shape. She has a fine voice, and speaks very distinctly. I have often wondered at the curiosity that seems to prevail with every body to know the character of princes, since it can be of little consequence to any but their own subjects; for their actions as sovereigns affect no other private person, and if their examples in common things were ever so shining, they are concealed from all but so small a number, that they can have little influence; yet we all have this curiosity. I may soon have occasion, for ought I know, to give you a history of other climes and things, and do

not

not be frightened at a letter from a camp *. I am not composed enough, on that head, to write you an explanation, but my brother will. Of this be assured, in all events I am, &c.

* On the death of Augustus, king of Poland, the interest of his son, the elector of Saxony, was warmly espoused by the czarina, in opposition to Stanislaus, who was elected by the Poles and supported by the French. The Russian troops, under general Lacy, entered Poland, proclaimed Augustus king, and marching to Warsaw, obliged Stanislaus and his friends to retire towards Dantzick. It should seem, by the above, that the czarina herself had at this time some thoughts of heading her army in person.

LET-

L E T T E R XVIII.

Peterburgh, 1734.

Dear Madam,

THAT your mind is formed with all the requisites for friendship I am quite convinced, but am as fully persuaded it was not calculated for love, or else you would not wonder at my resolution of following Mr. R— to the camp, if he is obliged to go. I foresee all the inconvenience that your friendship has made you paint in the strongest light; nay, as I have not that fortitude you possess, every dangerous or dreadful object is doubled to my weak mind and strong apprehensions; and I feel myself in a condition you only suppose may be the

the case, as I am married. But were I sure all the frightful scenes would happen that your friendship and my fears have formed, if he is obliged to go, it will be easy to me to share them with him, and though his tenderness will not let him ask it, yet the knowledge that my company will be agreeable to him would lead me through any thing, but not gratifying that desire his fondness only expresses : therefore as my resolution is fixed, I will leave this subject, for time to shew the event, and assume a style more proper to entertain. We have lately had a birth-day, which (though it happens every year) has afforded more amusement than things of that nature generally do. It was celebrated in the new hall that is just finished ; which is considerably larger than St. George's hall at Windsor. Though the day was
very

very cold, the stoves kept it warm enough, and it was decorated with orange-trees and myrtles, in full bloom; these were ranged in rows that formed a walk on each side of the hall, and only left room for the dancers in the middle. The walks on each side gave the company opportunity to sit down sometimes, as they were hid from the presence of the sovereign. The beauty, fragrance, and warmth of this new-formed grove, when you saw nothing but ice and snow through the windows, looked like enchantment, and inspired my mind with pleasing reveries. In rooms adjoining were coffee, tea, and other refreshments for the company, and when we returned into the hall, the music and dancing in one part, and the walks and trees filled with beaux and belles, in all their birth-day finery, instead of the shepherds

herds and nymphs of Arcadia, made me fancy myself in Fairy-land, and Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* was in my head all the evening. What poetical images would this scene have inspired you with ! But that talent is so much your own, that none can think or write like you. I have now got a little cot in the country, which is a vast delight to me, for here we are free from that constraint which always attends a court, and the company, or more properly the people, that we cannot avoid seeing in town. We have one English family with whom Mr. R— has contracted a great friendship ; I say, *he* has, for they are two brothers, whose conversation and understanding would make their acquaintance courted in England. They often go down with us. The house is built of wood, and has only a little hall,

hall, with two parlours on one side of it, and a kitchen and offices on the other, with four bed-chambers, and closets above. It stands on a rising ground, that leads with a natural green slope to a fine meadow, which is terminated by the sea ; behind it is a wood, of many miles, of birch and fir. There is no art or cultivation about it, for the uncertainty of this country would make that expence ridiculous, and as it is rural without, it is rustic within ; the tables furnished with delft, and the beds with white callico, rush chairs, and the rest in proportion. One parlour is furnished with books and maps ; those, and my frame for embroidery, are the only things that make it differ from a farm. Here we spend three days in a week very agreeably. Mr. R— reads to me, and I work, while our cows, sheep,

sheep, and poultry feed around us, and are so tame they come close to the windows. Had we such a retreat near you, that I might have a friend of my own sex, as he has two of his, how should I despise all grandeur ! But 'till that can be, I have in him the confidence of friendship and the tenderness of love ; and while heaven spares me this friend and lover, I shall be happy in all vicissitudes of fortune, and truly, &c.

H

LET-

L E T T E R X I X .

Petersburgh, 1734.

Dear Madam,

YOU seem so rejoiced at hearing I am not to carry a knapsack, or follow a camp, that you imagine it must give me a more than ordinary flow of spirits, or you would not insist on a particular description of the rejoicings for the taking of Dantzick so long after they are over ; for it is now very cold, and the weather then was very hot * ; so the entertainments then were

* The Russians under count Munich, as allies to king Augustus of Poland, laid siege to Dantzick in April 1734. The French troops encamped under it, commanded by M. de la Motte, brigadier, capitulated June 11 ; as did the Dantzickers June 15, on condition of acknowledging king

Augustus

in the garden of the summer-palace. The ladies were dressed in stiffened bodied gowns of white gauze with silver flowers ; their quilted petticoats were of different colours, as every one fancied. I was pleased with a gentleman's description of a lady ; on my not knowing which he meant, he said "*Celle-là avec le cotillon rouge :*" [" That in the red petticoat."] On their heads was only their own hair, cut short, and curled in large natural

Augustus as king, pardon of that prince and her czarian majesty, and paying two millions of crowns to count Munich, the city to be thereupon continued in her privileges. King Stanislaus withdrew the night before the capitulation, and in the disguise of a peasant passed over the inundations in a small bark, and, wandering on foot for six leagues, came safe in a waggon to Marienwerder. An account of his escape was soon afterwards published from a letter written by himself to cardinal Fleury.

curls and chaplets of flowers. The empress and the imperial family dined in a grotto that faced a long walk terminated by a fountain, and inclosed on each side by an high hedge of Dutch elms. There was a table the whole length of the walk, which joined at one end to her's in the grotto. Over this long table was a tent of green silk, supported by voluted pillars, which had wreaths of natural flowers twisted round them; between these pillars, in the niches of the hedges, were the side-boards, the whole length of the table, on each side; one furnished with plate, the other with china; the gentlemen drew tickets for their partners, and every man sat by his partner at table; so that a man and a woman sat all the way. There were three hundred people at table, and six hundred dishes in a course; two courses and a desert.—

After

After dinner the company separated into parties, and amused themselves in the garden 'till the cool of the evening, when the garden was finely illuminated, and the ball began under the same tent where we dined. The voluted pillars being illuminated had a very pretty effect. The music was placed behind the high hedge, so that it appeared as if the deity of the place supplied that part of the entertainment. When the ball was begun, the French officers who were taken at Dantzick, were introduced. I own, I thought this so cruel, that I got near enough to observe their behaviour on so delicate an occasion. Their leader, count de la Motte, was a fine person of a man, about fifty-five, grave and manly in his whole deportment. He looked as if he had a soul that felt his disgrace, and despised the insult. After they had all kissed

her majesty's hand, she addressed herself to this leader, and said, " he might wonder she chose to admit them to her presence just at that time, but that his countrymen had used her subjects very ill, who had the fate to be taken by them ; * that she had it now in her power to revenge it, but that this mortification was all that she would take ; and as the French were polite, she hoped some of the ladies might have charms enough to lessen even this." She then called to several ladies, who, she knew, spoke French, and desired them to do all they could to make those gentlemen forget they were prisoners, at least for that evening ; and while they were in her presence, they had their swords on parole. As my curiosity had

* In a Russian frigate, which occasioned this reprisal.

placed me near her, I was the first to whom she spoke, and so had the first of them to entertain ; who, according to the gallantry of his country, bowed to her, and said, “ her majesty had found a way doubly to conquer them ; for he hoped, Monf. Munich would do them the justice to say, they submitted their persons unwillingly to his valour, but they now submitted their hearts with pleasure to those fair conquerors.” As I am still weak, it was lucky for me that his age made him decline dancing ; so that the evening passed in chat, in which he shewed good sense, politeness, and a great deal of sprightliness, but a pretty strong dash of that redundancy of rhetorical expression so inherent to his country, especially in their conversation with women. He expressed great surprise at the magnificence of this court, and

its politeness. And indeed they are treated with great civility, have the court coaches to carry them about the town, and are shewn every thing generally shewn to strangers. I obtained leave for him, and as many of his companions as he thought fit, to dine with me ; he brought four of the twelve that are in this city. But, I fancy, by this time, you wish I would have done with the French, and, in plain English, bid you farewell.

LET.

LETTER XX.

Petersburgh, 1735.

Dear Madam,

YOU are possessed with such an inquisitive spirit, that you do not give fair play Is it not hard that I may not ask questions in my turn? And, in my conscience, if you were to hear I was admitted to an audience of the Great Turk, you would expect I should tell what passed there. You hear I often visit the princess Elizabeth, and that she has done me the honour to call at my house, and you cry, "Has she sense? has she greatness of soul? how does she bear another upon the throne?" You think it easy to answer all these things; but I have not

your

your penetration. She does me the honour to admit my visits frequently, and sometimes sends for me; and, to confess the truth, I have a veneration for her, and fondness in my heart, that make the visit to her a thing of pleasure, not of ceremony. She has an affability and sweetness of behaviour that insensibly inspires love and respect. In public she has an unaffected gaiety, and a certain air of giddiness, that seem entirely to possess her whole mind; but in private, I have heard her talk in such a strain of good sense and steady reasoning, that I am persuaded the other behaviour is a feint; but she seems easy; I say *seems*, for who knows the heart? In short, she is an amiable creature, and though I think the throne very worthily filled, yet I cannot help wishing she were to be the successor, at least. The princess Anne, who is

looked upon as the presumptive heiress, is now of an age from which something might be expected, especially as she has had so good an education. But she is neither handsome nor genteel, and her mind has not yet displayed any very shining qualities. She is very grave, seldom speaks, and never laughs; which to me is very unnatural in one so young, and, I think, her gravity rather proceeds from stupidity than judgment. This is *entre nous*, for you do not consider, I may be hanged to satisfy your curiosity, and durst not venture this by the post. I have been engaged for some days in conversation with a Swedish lady, who was taken prisoner by the Tartars, has lived eighteen years amongst them, and is just now come back; her history, as I had it from herself, is as follows. She was the wife of a Swedish captain, was taken prisoner

prisoner with her husband by the Russians, and was sent, with him and several others, to Siberia. On the road, being attacked by a party of Calmuck Tartars, the prisoners joined with their guards to prevent a second captivity. In the engagement her husband was killed, and those that were left alive were taken; their conquerors divided their booty, and separated the prisoners. She, and a Russian, who spoke the Calmuck language, were carried off by two Tartars; one of these liked her so well as to make love to her, and made the Russ his interpreter; but when intreaty would not prevail, he attempted force. She at last bit a piece of flesh off his bosom; for which he would have beat her, but was hindered by his companion. In a few days they arrived at the tent of their kan, or king, where this man rallied his

his companion on his adventure with his female captive; the kan called for her and her Rufs interpreter, and asked her why she refused the man her favour, and seemed to wonder at her delicacy of sentiments in having a choice of a lover; but told her, as it was the custom of her country, no-body should force or molest her, and gave her to one of his wives (for he had two). She asked her if she could work, and the lady shewed her a purse she had worked, with which she was wonderfully pleased, kept her to work at her needle, and treated her with great tenderness. They gave her meat of all sorts, and were diverted to see her dress it, for they eat all their meat raw. Fortune brought a man of her own nation a prisoner to the same place: he taught these Tartars several useful arts, and at last he founded cannon, which, as they were at war

with

with the Chinese, was so great a piece of service, that they gave him his liberty, and, at his request, her's also; and they have been married here, and are preparing to go to Sweden. As you love novelty, what should you think of visiting this kan, who appears to me a fine fellow? I leave you to consider of it, and am, &c.

LET.

LETTER XXI.

Petersburgh, 1735.

Dear Madam,

I Here send you a book that contains a history of all the different nations of the Tartars, which will satisfy your curiosity better than I can on that subject, as I know little of them, and have not read the book. I once mentioned to you a Tartar prince and his family, who came to seek protection ; * they are converted to Christianity, and were publicly christened at court. As I have once told you the ceremony of a Russ christening, † you may think it odd it should be done in public, but zeal and superstition carry people great

* See Letter XVI. p. 81. † See Letter III. p. 17.

lengths;

lengths ; and I could not perceive that either the converts (among whom were two women) or the spectators, were out of countenance ; and they seemed to think I had great prudery and small devotion, because I withdrew during the ceremony ; but I could not bring myself to think, but that, before so numerous an assembly, the ladies at least should have had some other robe beside that of righteousness. Not to have any more reproaches, that “ I “ never tell you any thing but what “ you directly ask after ;” I am going to give you the history of a Russ burial, as I have already done of a christening and a wedding. The only one I have seen was of the youngest daughter of prince Menzikoff, who was recalled from banishment, with her brother, by the present empress, and by her married to count Gustavus Biron,

Biron, youngest brother to the duke of Courland. She died in childbed, and was buried with great pomp. After the company had sat some time, they all went into the room to the corpse. The coffin was open : she was dressed in an undress, as she died in that condition (otherwise, as they told me, she would have been full-dressed) in a night-gown of silver tiffue, tied with pink ribbon ; on her head a fine laced mob, and a coronet, as princess of the Roman empire ; round her forehead was tied a ribbon, embroidered with her name and age ; in her left arm lay the child, who died a few minutes after its birth, dressed in silver tiffue ; in her right hand was a roll of paper, which was a certificate from her confessor to St. Peter. When all the company were ranged in the room, her servants came to take their leave of

I

her ;

her; the inferiors first: they all kissed her hand, and the child, asked her pardon for any crime they had committed, and made the most terrible noise imaginable, rather howling than crying. After that, her acquaintance took their leave, with this difference, that they kissed her face, and made a hideous noise, though not so bad as the others. Then came her relations, the most distant ones first; when her brother came, I really thought he would have pulled her out of the coffin. But the most moving scene was the husband, who had begged to be excused this dismal ceremony, but his brother thought he ought to comply with the Russ custom, lest, as he was a foreigner, it should be deemed a flight. He was brought from his own apartment by two gentlemen, as supporters, and they were really, in this case,

case, more for use than shew. He had true sorrow painted in his face, but silent sorrow. When he came to the door of the room where the corpse lay, he stopped and asked for some hartshorn; which when he had drank, and seemed to have armed himself, he advanced to the side of the coffin; and there fainted; when he was carried out of the room and recovered, the corpse was carried down and placed in an open chariot; a great train of coaches followed, and, as a general officer's wife, a party of guards. She was carried to St. Alexander's monastery to be buried, and though the coffin-lid was put on as the corpse passed the streets, it was taken off again when it came into the chapel, and the same ceremony of leave was taken over again, except by the husband, who was carried home in a second fainting fit, the moment the

coffin was uncovered. The rest of the ceremony was much like the Roman-Catholics. When the corpse was buried, all the company returned to the house, to a grand dinner, which had more an air of rejoicing, than mourning, as every body seemed to have forgot their sorrow ; but stop a malicious smile I fancy you have, for the husband did not appear, and is, I believe, truly concerned, as he had a great fondness for her, which always appeared in all his behaviour to her in her lifetime, a more convincing sign of sincerity than howling at her death. Should this find you in a low-spirited fit, and Mr. B— make a visit that moment, he would rail at me for giving you a pretence to be grave ; but I hope you will not tell the reason, as you have so long used him to submit to your will, without knowing the motives of your actions;

actions ; and indeed I must insist on your not shewing my letters to any one, for what is writ to a friend is nothing : a woman's observations are so ridiculous, that no one else ought to see them, therefore be honest to, &c.

L E T T E R XXII.

Petersburgh, 1735.

Dear Madam,

THE idea you have formed of count Munich * is very wrong. You say, “ you suppose him an old man, “ with all the savage look of a weather-beaten foldier ;” but he is now about

* This brave officer, distinguished as he had been both in the cabinet and the field, having been highly favoured by the princess of Mecklenburgh, and instrumental in procuring her the regency, experienced the reverse of fortune so common in this empire, by being banished to Pelym in the province of Tobolski in Siberia, on the accession of the princess Elizabeth. After her death, however, he was recalled by the emperor Peter III. in 1762, and being with him at Oraniembaum, when the empress, his consort, marched

fifty-four or five, has a handsome face, very fair complexion, is tall and slender, and very genteel and graceful in all his motions. He dances well, has youthful airs in all his actions, is one of the most gallant men of this court amongst the ladies, and when he is with our sex, affects a gaiety and ten-

marched against him, gave that unfortunate prince, at that critical emergency, the only advice which could possibly have saved him, which was to go boldly and meet the empress, and to charge the guards, on their allegiance, to obey his orders as their sovereign, offering to lose his life in his defence. But Peter had not sufficient magnanimity of mind either to perceive the absolute necessity of this conduct, or to embrace it instantly. On the contrary, consulting only with his terrors, he threw himself on the ground, burst into all the impotence of tears, and only conditioned for his life and his paternal dominions in Holstein. *Wraxall's Tour through some of the northern parts of Europe.* Count Munich died at Petersburg in 1767, aged 87.

derness that are to me very disagreeable, because they are affected ; for though he has all these advantages of person, he has still the German stiffness, and to see a man of that cast attempt the flutter of a *petit maitre*, is like seeing a cow frolicksome. If you were in company with this man, who has been seen in the papers as slaying his thousands and ten thousands, how would you be surprised to see him hearken to your voice with dying eyes, on a sudden snatch your hand, and kiss it in raptures ! But how much more would you be surprised to find he thought it necessary to do so to all women ! As to the rest of his character, as a soldier he is enterprising and rash, and as he has often been successful in his rash attempts, he is now grown fond of them, and has no consideration how many men he sacrifices to his ambition ;

tion; * yet in many things I believe there is more noise than reality. I should imagine ambush would be his favourite art of war, as sincerity is a quality I take him to be a stranger to; and were a friend to ask my real thoughts of him, I should, with Otway, say,

“Trust not to him, he is by nature false,

“Designing, cruel, subtle, and inconstant.”

—I mean his character not only in love but friendship; and, I dare say, whoever trusts him will feel this to be true. At present he is

* In like manner count Algarotti says of him, “Munich is reckoned lavish of blood, more feared than loved by the troops, and enterprising beyond what the bounds of duty prescribe. ‘Thank God,’ he cried, on seeing the French land at Dantzick, ‘Russia is in want of hands for her mines.’ A bravado, however, well enough suited to a general, and fit to spread confidence in an army.” *Letter IV. to Lord Hervey.*

the

the fashion, and next to the duke of Courland, he seems to be a favourite without a competitor, now the prince of Hesse Homburgh * is absent, who has been kept, by his contrivance, in some command at a distance from the court for two or three years, but in no place where he can do any actions that can make any noise. Their characters are so different, that it is no wonder that they cannot agree; for the prince is quite a soldier in every look and action, but with humanity, good-breeding, affability, and blunt sincerity.—He seldom dined or supped, while he was here, without company, which was mixed, as to the professions, of those of his own sex, and generally some of

* In consideration of the great share which this prince had in the revolution which set the princess Elizabeth on the throne in 1741, that empress immediately declared him veldt-marshal-general of her armies.

ours among them, to whom he behaved with politeness without affectation. At court his quality obliged him to dance, which he does with a good soldier-like air, and rallies his own want of pretty airs very agreeably. He is adored by the troops, and loved and esteemed by every body. In his person he is strong-made, and has a good air—but you actually make me do things that fright me; for asking an account of a country, or the characters of people, of me, is as out of the way as to consult a minister of state about the making of your gown; therefore, though I tell you things as they appear to my weak judgment, be not surprised to find that judgment wrong; but if your indulgence can make you find any amusements in my rhapsodies, it will flatter the utmost ambition of, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R XXIII.

Petersburgh, 1735.

Dear Madam,

I Am very sorry you mentioned to lady S— your having a correspondence here with me, since it has produced an order from the — to enquire into the feuds between two ladies, that I could never have imagined would have had any other consequence than making the rest of the court merry at their expence; and when madam L—'s friends wrote to her about it, I dare say she never thought she would mention it, at least in that place. To let you into the affair, it will be necessary to give you an account of these two ladies from their

their original, the rank they now hold being equal, as they are both wives of foreign ministers, residing at this court. The one is the daughter of a French general, who was a refugee in another service, when she was born. A man of the highest distinction had her first favour, and after some time he married her to her present husband, and employed him in his present post. The other was a tradesman's daughter of Hamburgh, and, being an only child, married a count, who wanted money as much as she did a title. As she was quite unacquainted with the manners of the court at her first coming hither, the other lady, who had always been bred in one, gave her all the countenance and help she could; but as the friendship of two beauties seldom lasts long, so it happened in this case; each thought

she

she had a right to all hearts, and the desire of having the most admirers so plainly appeared in both, that it soon drew several gentlemen to each party. That, as is usual in those cases, soon raised envy in each of them, which shewed itself in coolness at first, and then in little satirical speeches and actions on both sides. At last, as they were at a public entertainment, in a large company, where there was a gentleman each had a mind to captivate, the pique was so strong, that the countess could not help saying some very sharp things, which the other answered with so much coolness and contempt, that she gained the point she aimed at, putting her adversary quite in a passion: and then she could only say, "What a strange world we live in!" The other replied very calmly, "It is very true, madam, the world is

"odd,

"odd, and has been so ever since
 "dryers have thought themselves du-
 "cats." At this the poor countess
 burst into tears, and ran from the
 table. I fancy you will be as much
 at a loss for the wit of this speech as
 I was, till I tell you the countess's
 maiden name was "Dryer," and that
 a coin of the value of half a farthing,
 at Hamburgh, is called "a dryer."
 This occasioned an open war, which
 was carried so far, that the partizans
 of each lady appeared even at court,
 and all other places, in the favourite
 colour of the fair one whom they
 obeyed, and were distinguished by the
 name of "the *grey*" and "the *red* re-
 "giments." So after they had ex-
 posed themselves, and diverted every
 body, the poor countess lost ground
 so fast that she dropped the conten-
 tion, and indeed was not fit to begin
 it,

it, for she could not keep her temper, while the other was calm and not to be ruffled, and therefore had composure enough to say the most cutting things with great good manners, and seeming good temper. She has indeed more ready wit, both good and ill-natured, than any one I have observed; and the very management of this ridiculous contest gained her many admirers, which was the thing contended for; and if I was not kept in awe by your severe virtue, I should tell you, I love her, but hope you will indulge me so far as to think it no harm to enjoy such agreeable conversation without enquiring into the person's conduct. Thus I have given you the best account I can of this silly affair, which it would have been unpardonably ill-natured to repeat, but by command; and the

being obliged to tattle so much scandal has made me too stupid to say any thing more than that plain truth, which I always do with the same cheerfulness that I hope you receive it, that

I am, &c.

K

LET.

L E T T E R XXIV.

Peterburgh, 1735.

Dear Madam,

YOU almost make me afraid to open your letters, for fear of that particular order not to answer what you say, but tell you what I observe here: for you say, " You tell me all that passes among my friends in England, so I need ask no questions." But I have caught you tripping, as the inclosed will shew you; for you have never mentioned the youthful indiscretion of this poor girl. If she represents the thing impartially, think she has hard usage; for though her marrying this man might be folly, yet now she has done it, who can

blame

blame her for concealing his faults, may for not seeing he has any, if she can help it? As she is fully convinced that you can influence her aunt, and that you would serve her if you knew her case, I have sent you her own account of it, as I should do her injustice to offer to tell it in any words but her own. I have told her I have done so, and suppose she will wait on you; but, I fear, her judgment is not so strong as her expressions are sprightly, for you make small allowance for inclinations. "Prudence," you say, "should govern all our actions;" and you expect that every mind should be capable of that desirable qualification as early as your's was; but you will find few such examples, and should you abate of your usual severity in this case, I doubt your prevailing with her aunt, for I fancy she is more

angry at finding she dared run the hazard of disobliging her, than at the ill consequences that may attend it. This young thing was left to her care, and was to obey her, and the least attempt she had made towards being independent must have piqued her pride; and when that passion is roused, reasoning inflames it the more. Did I think her capable of any real concern for her niece's happiness, I should have some hopes; but, you know, I could never think that lady's mind had any mixture of softness. I wish I may be deceived. I pity this poor young thing, who had, from her infancy, such a wrong indulgence, that the least contradiction was insupportable to her, and the sudden transition from this indulgence to a strict severity, before her years enabled her to think one moment beyond the present time, was very likely to end in

the

the way it has done. But I have no need to reason with you on this affair, who, I know, will judge rightly of it, and on the good-natured side. As to Mr. M.'s curiosity to know "whether I have been at a Rufs bagnio," it merits no reply, but the contempt that ought to be shewn to men of his turn of mind, who fancy they have been witty when they have said an improper thing.

I am sorry you think it necessary to make an apology for recommending any friend of your's to me. Mr. R— desires me to assure you he will use all his interest to get him employed and advanced. A slight cold hindered him from going to court yesterday; so I introduced the young hero to the feldt-marshal, to whom all military people are first presented: he received him civilly, and presented him to her majesty. She said, "he was a pretty boy," and

“ and should be employed ;” but added, “ he would want leading-strings “ if he should happen to be in an engagement soon.” I told the feldt-marshal, “ he had a good deal of spirit “ and ambition ;” he smiled, and said, “ that was visible in his person.” I wish you could have contrived to have made his person look as ripe as his understanding and martial ardour are; for both Mr. R— and I have stood a good deal of raillery on the diminutive effeminacy of “ my hero,” as he is called ; but as he is to be employed, it is no matter by what means. By this time, I doubt, you are quite in the vapours at the stupidity of, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R XXV.

Petersburgh, 1735.

Dear Madam,

IT is with great pleasure I tell you
 our little hero is an officer, though
 it is in a low rank ; yet I hope he will
 soon advance. The accident of my
 presenting him at first has been the
 occasion of his being called “ the ladies
 “ feldt-marshal ;” for Mr. R— told
 her majesty, that “ he was under his
 “ wife’s protection, being recommend-
 “ ed to her by some ladies, who were
 “ too scrupulous to write to him :” she
 answered, “ he did well to make me
 “ his solicitor for him, but that would
 “ not convince her whether he was ca-
 pable of jealousy, or not ; but as

“ safe as he thought himself now, a few
 “ years might make a great alteration in
 “ a young soldier of fortune, and she
 “ had a strong prepossession he would
 “ be a feldt-marshal.” This has raised
 the young man to such a flow of spi-
 rits, that he bridles much. When he
 kissed her hand in his regimentals, she
 asked “ how old he was,” which made
 him blush extremely, and his inter-
 preter could hardly be grave when he
 answered, “ in ten months he should
 “ be sixteen.” She smiled, and spoke
 to me in Russ. He was very desirous
 to know what she said; but if I had
 told him, his honour would have been
 affronted: so he is easy with the
 thoughts that he is esteemed a man of
 consequence.

I am surprised to hear you are
 piqued at not succeeding between
 the aunt and niece. Could you ex-
 pect you should? You say, “ she
 “ talks

“ talks of her niece with great affection, and yet will not hear reason.”

You are too good a judge of mankind not to know that those who talk of affections, never have any ; for real love and affection cannot be expressed any more than they can be concealed ; words in that case are useless, but the most trifling action is big with meaning. You likewise expect impossibilities from the niece ; for what young girl of fifteen, just married to a baronet, can think she ought to submit to own she has done an indiscreet thing ? Nay, I really hope she never will own she has, for nothing but his making her feel she has done wrong, will urge her to do it ; which I hope will not happen. You are merry with my saying, “ they are very wise in talking to you of husbands and children, which is like giving young Miss T— a shift
2 “ to

“ to make, while the rest of the company are at quadrille ;” but you have drawn it upon yourself.

I wish you would be so good as to make me comprehend the wit of the verses, for I am grown so stupid I cannot find it out ; but perhaps this frozen climate may be an excuse for the want of judgment in your, &c.

LET.

L E T T E R XXVI.

Peterſburgh, 1735.

Dear Madam,

DO you imagine that I am like Don Quixote, and that every thing turns to an adventure at my approach ? for I think I have made you as intimate with my Ruſſian friends as I am myſelf ; but one ſurpriſing thing I have to tell you, is, your old friend, count D—, is here, and is very civil to me. This laſt circumſtance is ſo very extraordinary, that I almoſt imagined he had a mind to make love to me ; for if love can turn to hatred, why may not hatred turn to love ? But I have lately found another motive, which is generally

rally the most prevailing, fear; for, not long ago, coming on a visit, and finding me alone, he said, “ he hoped “ I would never mention the ridiculous “ affair of lady F— and the fringed “ gloves, for it was not true.” I said, “ if it was not, he had no reason to “ fear any consequences from it; but “ however it was, he might be easy as “ to me, for I never should once have “ thought of mentioning it.” What a mean mind this poor mortal must have, to imagine I could ever think of being so malicious as to expose him in so ridiculous a light, in a place where the story is not known! But I suspect he would have been capable of serving another so, or he could not have entertained the thought. I am surprised, when I look back, at the many lines I have written on this insignificant man, whom I never thought of consequence enough

enough to laugh at; though you will at the following story of my usual talent of speech-making. Dining, not long ago, at a friend's house, the whole conversation, all dinner-time, was of the odd actions of the king of Prussia,* and his tall grenadiers. This subject was not very entertaining to me, and I knew nothing of what had passed; but the words, "tall fellows," and "Potsdam," (the place where they are kept) rung so often in my ears, that I was quite glad to see the Prussian minister come in; as it broke off this conversation. We went to look at a fine set of tapestry the gentleman of the house had just bought, in which was a Cupid of a monstrous size; which the company taking notice of, I just then took it into my head to speak,

* Frederick II. father to the present king.

and

and said, " it was a Potsdam Cupid ;" and then wondered what raised such a horse laugh, 'till I saw the poor Prussian at my elbow.

As we are a good deal at our little rural retreat, I am not expected above one day in a week at the drawing-room, so have time to ramble, and last week went to see a house begun by Peter the First, but never finished, which is a pity ; for the plan is very grand ; the situation is much like that of Peterhoff, which I have described to you.* Her majesty talks of cutting a canal, to bring large ships up to the city, which at present they cannot do on account of the bar ; if she does, this palace will be the finest in the world, for this canal will come through the gardens, which are very extensive, and from the house you will see first-rate men of war sail

* Letter I. p. 7.

through

through them. You will say, " this is
 " a pretty project, but how will it be
 " put in execution ?" Why, here, in
 time of peace, the troops are employed
 in such public works, and when they
 are begun, thirty thousand men are set
 to work at once ; but as easy as it is, I
 hope I shall not stay here 'till it is
 finished, but have the pleasure in per-
 son of assuring you, that I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXVII.

Petersburgh, 1735.

Dear Madam,

YOU are too inquisitive and fond of odd things, for me to hope for pardon, if I should not tell you of a new diversion we have had at court this winter. There is a machine made of boards, that goes from the upper story down to the yard; it is broad enough for a coach, with a little ledge on each side. This had water flung upon it, which soon froze, and then more was flung, 'till it was covered with ice of a considerable thickness.*

* In the appendix to Voltaire's History of Russia, a diversion exactly similar to this is said to be exhibited annually, in the eighth week before

The ladies and gentlemen of the court sit on sledges, and they are set going at the top, and fly down to the bottom; for the motion is so very swift, that nothing but flying is a proper term. Sometimes, if these sledges meet with any resistance, the person in them tumbles head over heels; that, I suppose, is the joke. Every mortal that goes to court has been down this slide, as it is called, and no neck has yet been broken. I was terrified out of my wits for fear of being obliged to go down this shocking place, for I had not only the dread of breaking my neck, but of being exposed to indecency too

fore Easter, which is called the butter-week, may be looked upon as the Russian carnival, and is spent in all kinds of entertainments and licentiousness. The declivity is there said to be "twenty ells in height."

L

frightful

frightful to think on without horror, and I staid away some time almost with the hopes that somebody would break a limb, and put a stop to it ; but at last I was forced to appear. Somebody cried out, “ You have never been down,” as every one was glad their neighbour should be served as they had been. I was ready to die on hearing this, but her majesty said, “ my present condition made it improper,” and so I was excused. If you take it in your head to come here while this lasts, you must be sure to have the same excuse, or down you go.

Now to your family affair : One would really think you had made very few observations on mankind, or had not studied the passions (both which I think you have done) to hear you wonder that you cannot bring either of these ladies to make the least confession.

cession. I have already told you it is impossible, as both are piqued in pride. Had I thought it would have given you so much trouble, I should not have engaged you in it ; but, I fancy, you, madam, with all your reason, have a dash of that something called pride in this affair, and are fired at not being able, with such a superiority of understanding, to convince them ; why, that is the very reason you cannot ; for you talk beyond either of their capacities, who neither of them ever thought more than the chit chat of a card-table, or an assembly ; and I fancy, as my capacity comes nearer theirs than yours does, I can put you in a better way than arguing. When either of them complains to you of the other, join with her, and rail at the absent party, and, I dare say, they will both fall upon you and unite. This thought

has put it into my head to advise Mr. B— to employ somebody to play this artifice ; but I doubt he is too sincere not to despise a conquest gained by art, and therefore would not follow the advice of, &c.

LET-

Y
I
B—
“
“
“
pun
and
you
ron
it is
emp
as f
the
The

L E T T E R XXVIII.

Peterburgh, 1737.

Dear Madam,

YOU have found a way to take a severe revenge for the scheme I only thought of putting into Mr. B—'s head, "to make me give characters of people so out of my way, or else not to write to me any more;" tho', in the end, you will be punished by this command. The duke and dutchess of Courland (who were, you know, count and countess of Bircon) continue so much in favour, that it is by their frown or smile the whole empire is happy or miserable; that is, as far as preferments can contribute to the first, or disgrace occasion the last. There are so few that one or both these

do not make subservient to them, that they have the whole people at their command. He has a great share of pride, and a great deal of passion, and, when he is in one, vehement in his expressions. When he takes a liking to any one, he is violent in favour and commendation, but not steady; he soon changes, without any reason, and often conceives as strong a dislike as he had a liking before; and when he does so, he cannot hide it, but shews it in a mortifying way. He has naturally a great reserve, but while the fond fit lasts, is very free to the favoured person. He is sincere, for if he either thinks it not proper, or does not care to answer truly, he will give none. He has a contempt for the Russians, which he shews to the greatest of them so publicly, on all occasions, that, I fancy,

it

it will one day be his ruin ; * though I really believe, his faith to her majesty is inviolable, and he has the good of his country at heart. His dutchefs is haughty and sour, and has a harshness in her looks and manner, that forbids the respect it would command ; that is, in

* This opinion was verified by the event.— By the will of the empress Anne, who died Oct. 17, 1740, the duke of Courland being appointed regent of the empire during the minority of John III, exclusive of his father and mother, the principal lords and prelates murmuring at being under a foreign yoke, annulled this settlement, and named the grand-dutchefs, the young emperor's mother, regent in his stead. The duke of Courland was arrested as an usurper and tyrant, tried in form, and condemned to die ; but the new regent mitigated this sentence, and banished him and his family into Siberia. From thence he was recalled after the death of the empress Elizabeth, and restored to his dutchy, where he died at Mittau, aged 88, in December 1772.

any thing but form ; for, to confess the truth, though I am called a favourite with her, and, I believe, stand as well as most in her graces, I do not feel that in my heart which I call respect ; for the ceremony due to her quality is not what I would describe, though it is called by the name, and she mistakes it herself ; for as she is suddenly so much advanced in station, she is out of her sphere, and thinks that to command respect, is to be haughty. Had she been a private woman, she would have been what Dr. P— calls “ a notable,” and I leave him to tell you what such a one dignified must be. She does not interfere in business, or preferments, but affects the character of giving all her time, that is not taken up in attendance on her majesty, to the education of her children, and work. She has seen little of

the

the world, and is not remarkable for great genius, though no fool, and loves drefs. You cry, "Why ſhe is a woman, ſo that's no wonder." It may be ſo, but leave it to the men to make the remark. Thus I have obeyed you, and diſpatched two of the great folks in our northern climate, and hope (though it is to the beſt of my judgment) it will oblige you to forbid any more of the ſame fort, from, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXIX.

Petersburgh, 1737.

Dear Madam,

INSTEAD of taking off any of the task you imposed upon me, you are requiring more. I thought I had given a full account of the duke and dutchess in my last; but you ask many questions about them, which I will answer in order. He keeps his post of great chamberlain to her majesty, though a sovereign prince, and she her's of first lady of the bed-chamber, only with this difference, since their new dignity; she sits down in her majesty's presence, whenever the princesses do, and, on all public occasions, has her hand kissed.

They live in the palace, but have all the same officers of their own that her majesty has, and those of his own subjects, and they attend upon them while they are in waiting; that is, he has a gentleman of his bed-chamber to wait on him, and she has maids of honour to wait on her, and when they go out, their own liveries and equipages, which are vastly magnificent. Count Osterman is vice-chancellor of the empire, and all the dispatch of business lies on him; though the duke directs all.—He is thought the greatest minister in capacity now in Europe; but as sincerity is a quality not thought generally necessary for that profession, he does not let it hinder his effecting any scheme he undertakes. He is polite, and has a good person, and when he shakes off the minister, is a very entertaining companion. He is a Westphalian

phalian by birth, and came into this country as private secretary to a Dutch admiral then in this service. Peter the First, seeing a paper he had translated into Russ, sent for him, and, on talking with him, that monarch's penetrating genius soon found he had a superior understanding, and took him to himself, raised him by degrees to the post he now enjoys, and married him to a Russ lady, of great beauty, birth, and fortune, though he still continues a Lutheran. He is not covetous, for he is poor, considering the opportunities he has had. He was governor to Peter the Second, and the chief instrument in the ruin of prince Menzikoff; but was near being supplanted by prince Dolghorucki, who was the great favourite of that young monarch, and some people think, his death only prevented the count's ruin, as the favourite

yourite feared his art and knowledge ; a proof of which he had seen in Menzikoff's fall. He has been very gallant, but never cared for the trouble of a woman of distinction ; so his amours have made no great noise, and now he seems to regard the sex only in the light of more gay and pretty toys, (to unbend his mind, when he has a leisure hour to fling away in trifles and chat,) than the men, who are apt to talk sense when he would only hear nonsense. I know, you think most of our sex most admirably well qualified for that, and are convinced that is the case, at least, with, &c.

LET-

I. E T T E R X X X.

Petersburgh, 1737.

Dear Madam,

NO quarter, I find ; so have at you. To count Osterman are added two others who compose the cabinet-council : the one is prince Czercaskoi * of Russia, remarkable for many things ; the first (and in most people's opinion the best) his great riches ; he

* Prince Sunfalei Jacolowitz Czercaskoi, from the Circassian Cabasda, came to the Czar Feder Iwanowitz [*witz* signifies *son*] and assisted him in conquering the country of Circassia, and the city of Terki. It is the chief Circassian family, and almost the richest in Russia, having near 70,000 peasants. *Appendix to Voltaire's History of Russia, Chap. II.*

has

has thirty thousand heads in family, who are his slaves, and one only daughter to inherit them; next, for his person, which is some degrees broader than long; his head very large, leaning on his left shoulder; and his belly, which is also large, to the right; his legs, which are very short, always booted, even in the drawing room, on the greatest festivals; and, last of all, for his taciturnity, having, I believe, never spoken more than a certain member of another famous assembly, that you and I know, did in the speech of his that was printed; but his estate and quality made it necessary he should have an honourable employ, and he will certainly not do much, nor confound their council with his eloquence. The other cabinet minister is count Jyago-senki; his person is fine, he has a countenance not of regular features, but
great

great majesty, vivacity, and expression; is tall, and well made. He has a negligence and ease in his manner, that would look like a want of breeding in any other man, but are so natural in him, that every one must think nothing else would become him; for, with so much ease that every action seems to be by chance, he has a dignity that attracts all eyes in ever so large an assembly, as to the principal figure in it. He has a fine understanding and judgment, and the vivacity, so strongly painted in his face, runs through his whole character; for he dispatches more business in one day than most others do in a week. When one only asks a favour of him, if he has good reason, he directly says, "he will not serve you," and for what reason; if he doubts, he fixes a time to give an answer, and then he says, "he will,"

or, "cannot," and for what reason: if he promises he will do a thing that is asked of him, he would die rather than break his word. He always speaks his sentiments, without flattery, to those in high stations; for if the greatest person in the empire did wrong, he would say so as freely, as of the meanest, which, in this country, is so dangerous, that it makes his friends daily tremble for him; but hitherto those in the greatest power are afraid of him, for he censures so justly, but so severely, that every body is in awe. There are very few to whom he professes friendship, though he serves many; but when he does, he is very steady; nothing, but his being convinced of some notorious failing, can move it. He loves to shake off the incumbrance of ceremonies that attend his station, and to dine in a family.

M

way

way with a friend, and is then the most delightful companion one can meet with. One instance of his humanity I must give, which will let you judge of the man better than all I can say. Dining with us one day, in the way I have above described, (an honour which he often does us, as he professes friendship to Mr. R—, and has always done so to me) I mentioned a poor man (who was under her majesty's displeasure, and had suffered a long confinement) with compassion and concern, lest he should be offended at my talking of business, when he was come here to unbend; but in a moment, he said, "Mother," (the name by which he always calls me) "I will take care of him, but cannot do it yet." Three months passed, and I was watching an opportunity to remind him of his promise, which I thought he had forgot, when

(on

(on her majesty's birth-day) he came to me, and told me, the man was released and in all his employments again; and added, " I love that compassionate heart of your's, which I have (I know) made easier by helping one in distress; and never be afraid to apply to me, without that diffidence you had on this occasion." He was a great favourite of Peter the First, who always called him " his eye," for, said he, " if Paul sees a thing, I shall know the real truth as well as if I saw it myself." But my paper is my monitor to tell you, that I am, &c.

L E T T E R XXXI.

Peterburgh, 1737.

Dear Madam,

I AM strongly tempted to deceive you, and tell you, the gentleman you are so charmed with is unmarried; for if he were, I fancy you would come hither to try to make a conquest; but alas! to his sorrow, as well as your's, he has got more wife than he knows what to do with, and I would advise you not to come in his way; for, you see, I have some interest with him, and will get him to shew you how unreasonable and cruel you are in your treatment of Mr. B—, and, I am sure, you could never withstand his arguments; therefore, if you have a mind to gain the glorious title of old maid,

keep

keep out of his way, for his penetration would soon find that your tyranny proceeded from Mr. B—'s humility, and he would consequently so mortify you, that you would presently dwindle into a wife to the man you have made subservient to you so long.

I must tell you a story of a lady, whose courage I wonder at, without having the least inclination to imitate it. The Polish ambassador and his lady were invited to dinner with a large company, at count Jyagosenki's *, and as he lives on one side of the river, and they on the other, in coming over the ice, it broke, and let her sledge fall in, and she with great difficulty got out, after being up to her neck in water. She went home, and her husband came on, made an excuse for being so late,

* See Letter XXX. p. 159.

and told the accident that had happened to his wife, with great composure; whether from *sang froid*, or joy she had escaped, I leave you to judge; but what surprised me was, that, just as the desert was set on the table, the lady came in, she having new-dressed, and ventured over the river, and did not seem at all discomposed, but danced with us all the night, and then went over the ice again in her way home. The whole company made her great compliments on her courage; as for me, I own I looked on the thing in another light, and thought it such a mark of the levity our sex is accused of, to run that hazard for a ball, that I was sorry it was a woman that did it. Since I have mentioned this lady, I must add something more of her and her country-women. Here have been two more Polish ladies of fashion as well as she:

they

they are fine showy women, in their persons, without being beauties, have a graceful mien, great gaiety, but a little stiffness; they all love dancing and singing, and all manner of diversions, and seem to be formed with bodies and spirits that can never tire. They are very agreeable companions for an hour, but are too much for me, for a longer time, who, you know, can flag, especially with people of insolence of spirits, if I may be allowed the expression. They are very magnificent in their attendants and dress, but have so much of their national pride, and martial manner, that they lose the softness of our sex. But this observation makes me reflect how much you make me act out of my sphere; for, in short, if the letters I write to you were to be seen, how ridiculous must I appear! But your desires are to me com-

mands, and acting as I do, is a stronger proof of my friendship than the repetition of it in every letter; as I am truly sensible of my want of talents for what you require of me, though I will yield to none in what I value myself upon, being truly and affectionately, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R XXXII.

Petersburgh, 1737.

Dear Madam,

YOUR reprimand is very kind, for my venturing over the river, after another had met with such an accident as I mentioned in my last; but Mr. H—, when he told you my danger, should have told the motive: I went to see a sick, nay dying, lady, who was a stranger in this country, and who must have been left, in that condition, to the care of servants, had I not ventured. And now, I dare say, you agree with me, that humanity was a stronger inducement than courage; and thus this heroic act (like many others) has
little

little in it, when the whole is known. Pray, if you were to walk in the park when crouded, should you be able to name the company that were there? If not, how can you ask me "what other people compose the court?" I have told you those that govern the domestic and foreign affairs; the rest only fill the circle, and are composed, as in most other courts, of military and courtiers; though there is a greater difference between these two classes here than in some other courts. The first, in general, have a rough savageness, a stalk in their gait, and a fierceness in their looks and manner, that raise the idea of the dreadful part of their profession, too much, to fancy them fit furniture for a drawing-room; though, to do them justice, they have it not in their conversation. The others are just such things as mere pretty fellows

lows are every where, viz. nothing, dressed fine. In one of my letters * I described a diversion to you, called "sliding," which, I suppose, made you imagine we were all turned rope-dancers and tumblers; now we are, I imagine, to turn dragoons; for the present diversion at court is shooting, both at a mark, and flying; and from this I have not been excused, though I was from the other, but have once shot off a gun, they told me, at a mark; indeed I was so frightened, I did not see it, but can assure you, as great a coward as I was, some of the gay pretty fellows above-mentioned seemed more afraid than I; and, I dare say, had petticoats been exempted from this diversion, would willingly have resigned the breeches to the first female that would have taken

* Letter XXVII. p. 145.

them;

them ; and thus far I agree with them, that all women ought to wear breeches that chuse such amusements ; but whether beau, rake, or whatever shape I may be put into, I shall be as constantly as in my own, &c.

LET.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

Petersburgh, 1737.

Dear Madam,

SURELY you fancy I am really grown a ,prude, if you think I should have pleasure in giving characters of my own sex, or would make me believe a thing which I could never yet do, that you were really so; for if one or both of us are not of that haughty order, we shall be content to regulate our own conduct so as to be as blameless as women can be, rather than search into the conduct of others; but as I cannot refuse you any thing you ask, though I may wonder at your asking, I will suppose we are chatting
over

over a dish of tea, and giving our opinions of birth-day suits and Bruffels lace, and will tell you what, and who, suits my taste, with as little meaning as if I talked of the gown, and not of the woman; and I the more freely do it, as whether I commend or blame, it can have no bad consequence, as the persons of whom I am to speak are all strangers to you, or else even you should not persuade me to give my opinion, though it is of too little weight to disturb or hurt any body. You have already had the best account I can give you of her majesty, the princesses, and the dutchess of Courland. Madam Arcais is governess * to the princess Anne; she was born in Prussia, and is the widow of a general-officer; I think, a Frenchman. With him she was in France, Germany, and Spain. Her

* See page 72.

person is extremely fine, though not
 young; her understanding naturally
 good, and improved by reading; and
 having seen so many different courts,
 in most of which she resided some time,
 her person made people of all ranks
 court her acquaintance, and her un-
 derstanding helped her to improve her
 mind by the conversation her person
 had procured; so that she is fit com-
 pany for a princess or a tradesman's
 wife, and cannot behave improperly to
 either. In private company she never
 loses the politeness of a court, nor at
 court the freedom of a private compa-
 ny, and in her conversation she has a
 manner that looks as if she tried to
 learn something from those with whom
 she converses, though I think there are
 very few but must be improved by her.
 The pleasantest hours I have spent
 since I left you, (in the absence of Mr.
 R—) have been with her, though her
 post

post lets me have less of her company than I wish for ; but when I have it, I never fail of being instructed and delighted. She has an only daughter, who is with her, and who has inherited her good sense and endowments of mind, but not of person ; for, in that, nature has been a step-mother to her ; so she does not say half the bright things that she would do, were she handsome ; but as that may be the reason why one sex thinks she says few good things, it may be so why the other finds out she says a great many. But she herself is this minute come in, *so sans cérémonie, &c.*

LET-

L E T T E R XXXIV.

Petersburgh, 1738.

Dear Madam,

DO not fancy you could set one woman to talk of another, nay of many others, without having a dash of scandal ; at least, before I have got through the task you have set me, you will find that I am like most of my sex on that head. I have just had a visit from a lady who is one of our beauties, wife to a Russ gentleman you remember in England, Mr. Lapuchin. She is one of the ladies of the bed-chamber, and niece to the lady I told you the story of, who was mistress to Peter the First ; * but, the scanda-

* Letter II. p. 13, 16.

lous chronicle says, was not so hard to be persuaded out of her virtue. She and her gallant, if he really is one, are very constant, having had a passion for each other many years. She has just now returned a lying-in visit. When she was brought to bed, I wished her husband joy of the birth of his son, the first time I saw him, and asked him how she did? He answered me, in English, "Why do you ask me? Ask count Levenvalt; he knows better than I do." And when he saw me quite confounded at this speech, he added, "Why, all the world knows it is true, nor does it disturb me. We were obliged to marry by Peter the Great: at that time I knew she hated me, and she was quite indifferent to me, though she is handsome. I can neither love nor hate her, but continue in a state of indifference; so why should I be disturbed

"disturbed at her making herself easy
 "with a man she likes, since, to do
 "her justice, she behaves with as much
 "decency as the affair will admit
 "of?" Judge of my confusion, or
 think what you would have done on
 such an occasion. I will tell you what
 I did : I left him abruptly, and talked
 to the first person that came in my way.
 This lady speaks only Russ and Ger-
 man, so our conversation can be only
 of common things, as I speak but little
 of either; therefore I can say no more of
 her than of her person, which is really
 handsome. This, methinks, is all I
 need to have said, but I could not sup-
 press this story, as it appears to me a
 very singular one; though I hate my-
 self for the ill-nature I am guilty of,
 which you will hardly pardon in, &c.

L E T T E R XXXV.

Petersburgh, May 10, 1739.

Dear Madam,

I Am now going to tell you of a lady that I fancy you will be charmed with. She was a noble Venetian by birth, and married an old man, who has been many years settled in this country, though born at Ragusa. He was sent to Venice by Peter the Great, on some affair of consequence, and there married this lady, or rather bought her, for he is immensely rich. She is now five-and-twenty, tall, finely shaped, genteel, and graceful; her features are pretty strong, but she has extremely handsome large black eyes, and her whole person is very like the
descrip-

description I have heard of the Roman beauties. Her old man keeps her very close, and hardly ever lets her stir, but to court, where she constantly appears with all the lustre that the most magnificent cloaths and jewels can give to a very elegant person. She has a great quantity of prodigious fine pearls ; so many, that there was a suspicion in some of our sex that they were false, and consequently a strong desire to know if a suspicion, that would have given such delight, were true, or not. It is the mode here to have buffoons of both sexes, who are privileged to do and say a thousand ridiculous things ; one of these women undertook to find out this darling secret : accordingly, the next time she saw this lady at court, she talked to her in raptures of her person, and at last pretended to kiss her neck, and

in doing it, bit one of her pearls ; which the lady perceiving, she gave her a box on the ear, and told her, “ that was to make her remember that “ a noble Venetian never wears false “ jewels.” The woman surprised at the blow, cried out, and said, “ she would “ complain to her majesty,” who was only in the next room. The lady very composedly answered, “ If you did “ this by her majesty’s orders, you “ should have told me so ; if not, I “ imagine she will be pleased that I “ have corrected your insolence to one “ of my quality, without giving her “ the trouble of a formal complaint.” The woman did not appear for some time, and the affair was hushed up. Now, I fancy, you cry out, “ Oh “ how I love her spirit !” and long to ask a thousand questions about her ; but as I told you before, she is never seen

seem but at court, where only general conversations, and those low ones, pass ; so I know nothing of her, but what I can judge by this one incident, which, I own, does not seem to me to be of a piece with a woman's having meanness of soul enough to give up her person to age and infirmity for money ; for I am almost of the Scotch parson's mind, who told the girl that had granted her favours for a small sum, that " she had better have done " it for God's sake." I make no doubt that they are equally prostitutes, and, I own, that has placed the lady in so contemptible a light with me, that I hardly spoke to her, though I was strongly tempted to be acquainted with her, on seeing this ; for I thought I saw you blaze forth in this action : but I considered you have often told

me, nothing but your partial friendship could make you pardon my tameness, as you call it ; so I thought it best to omit it, and without trying to make more acquisitions, rest contented with being, &c,

LET-

L E T T E R XXXVI.

Petersburgh, June 20, 1739.

Dear Madam,

I Am very glad you approve of my conduct in not getting acquainted with the Venetian lady, but am a little mortified at your saying “ you love her, but know I am not fit to converse with her ;” though your sentiments of her want of delicacy in her choice comfort me a little, for I find you only love her because she can resent strongly and instantly. I think she would not melt into tears at a harsh word from a friend, a weakness, I know, you despise.

We are all very busy in preparing for the wedding of the princess Anne
with

with the prince of Brunswick *. I believe, I never told you he was brought here six years ago in order to marry her ; he was then about fourteen, and was educated with her in order to create an affection, but it has, I think, produced a contrary effect, for she shews something worse than, hatred towards him, contempt. His person is well enough, very fair, but he has an effeminate look, and a good deal of stiffness, which may proceed from the awe he has been kept in ever since he has been here ; for as the match is so advantageous to him, he has been kept at a great distance. This, and his stammering, make it difficult to judge of his capacity. He behaved gallantly in two campaigns

* This prince was born in 1714, and is next brother to the reigning duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttle. Before his marriage, he was declared generalissimo of all the forces, and stadtholder of the Russian empire.

that he made with feldt-marshal Munich. It is supposed his going was occasioned by a design the duke of Courland had of matching his son to the princess; for upon her shewing such strong contempt to the prince of Brunswick, he thought it would have a better face, and that he might safely offer her an alternative. Accordingly, last week he waited on her, and told her, " he came from her majesty to " tell her she must marry, and left her " to chuse the prince of Brunswick, " or the prince of Courland." She said, " her majesty's commands she " should always obey, though in this, " she owned, with reluctance; for she " had rather be shot than marry either; " but if she must marry one, she chose " the prince of Brunswick." You will guess, the duke was mortified, and the prince and his dependents as
much

much elated; and they now say, her behaviour to him was political, to deceive the duke; but I fancy she will convince them she means no more than that, as her inclinations must be forced, she has this way of shocking the duke, whom she hates; and indeed she loves no-body, but, as she has a strong reluctance to obedience, she hates him most, as he has most power; and yet she is obliged to be civil to him. However, great preparations are making for the wedding, which is to be celebrated with all the pomp possible, and nothing else is talked of. When it is over, you shall have the best account I can give of it, as, I am sure, that will be your command to, &c.

LET.

L E T T E R XXXVII.

Peterſburgh, July 30, 1739.

Dear Madam,

YOU will have ſeen by the papers, that our great wedding is now over, and ſo will expect the performance of my promiſe. The marquis Botta *, the emperor's miniſter, took

* Afterwards field-maſthal and commander in chief of the Auſtrian troops at the reduction of Genoa in 1745, which he oppreſſed with ſuch hard conditions and exactions (though the freedom of that city, as Buonamici informs us, had formerly been beſtowed upon his family, and he was alſo related to many of the citizens) that at length he and his forces were expelled by a general inſurrection of the inhabitants. He died at Pavia, being then the imperial vicar in Italy, in January laſt.

the

the title of ambaffador, for three days only, in order to demand the princefs in form, in his mafter's name, for the prince of Brunfwick, his nephew. The marquis went out of town on Saturday to St. Alexander's monastery, from whence he made his public entry, as ambaffador, into town on Sunday. This was much as all public entries are. On Monday he had his audience, to demand the princefs; her majesty flood under a canopy, on a throne raifed twelve fteps, at the end of the great hall, a great chair behind her, and a table at her right hand, all her lords of the bed-chamber placed on the fteps of her throne, and the gentlemen of the bed-chamber in rows at the bottom of the fteps, the nobility and foreign minifters on the left all down the hall in three rows, behind each other, and the ladies in the fame manner

manner on the right. Neither the princess, nor the duke and dutchefs of Courland, appeared ; but the princess Elizabeth, and her court, did. The ambassador had a great train, and after he had made his bows, mounted the steps of the throne, and put on his hat, while he made his speech, but took it off, when he delivered the letter. The great chancellor answered the speech, and then the ambassador withdrew, and her majesty remained in the same place, and the duke of Wolfenbuttle's minister came and made a speech, and delivered a letter, but at the foot of the throne, and uncovered. During all this there was so profound a silence, that you might have heard a pin drop, except the speeches, which, added to the richness of her majesty's dress, the dignity of her person, and the finery of all the company, made the cere-

ceremony very solemn and magnificent. As soon as the last-named minister withdrew, her majesty went into the long gallery, followed by all the company, who ranged themselves in the same order, and she stood under a canopy, but without a throne. When she was placed, the prince came in to thank her for granting him the princess. He was dressed in a white satin suit of cloaths embroidered with gold, his own fair hair, which is very long, curled, and all loose, and I could not help thinking he looked like a victim. After he had made his speech, she placed him on her right hand under the canopy. The ambassador was then sent for, and placed on her left. Then the great marshal and prince Czerkaskoi * led in the princess, who stopped just before her majesty, and

* See Letter XXX.

she told her, " she had given her consent to the prince that he should have her for his wife." On this the princess clasped her hands round her aunt's neck, and burst into tears ; her majesty stood some time with a grave composure, but at length melted into tears also. Thus they continued some minutes ; till at last the ambassador took hold of the empress, and the great marshal of the princess ; her majesty composed herself, and took a ring from the princess, and another from the prince, and changing them, returned hers to him, and his to her. She then tied his picture round her niece's arm, kissed them both, and wished them joy. The princess Elizabeth then came to salute the bride, as she was now called, and embraced her in an agony of tears ; but the empress pulled her away, and

O

the

the princess retired to make way for others to kiss her hand, she all the while weeping. The prince supported her, and really looked a little silly at all this passion of tears. As soon as all had paid their compliments, her majesty withdrew, and all the company went home to prepare for the wedding the next day. On Tuesday all the foreign ministers had a room appointed for them to see the procession, and another in the church, to which they were to go as soon as the procession had passed, because the ceremonial could not be settled for them to be in the procession, as no one would submit to have the lowest place. The prince went first to the church with his court, with no great pomp. Then the other began by the coaches of the people in posts under the government, and the nobility; their equi-

page

pages were as fine as could be, both coaches and liveries ; each of them had ten footmen walking before their coach, and some had two running-footmen besides, and various whims to make a shew : one, that I thought was as pretty as any, was, two running-footmen-negroes, dressed in black velvet, so exactly fitted to their bodies, that they appeared naked, only feathers put on after the Indian fashion. After all these were passed, came prince Charles, the duke of Courland's youngest son, in a chariot, with twelve footmen walking before, four running-footmen, two pages, two hyducs, and two gentlemen on horseback. Then prince Peter, his eldest brother, in the same manner. Then the duke, in a most magnificent chariot, with four-and-twenty footmen, eight running-footmen, four hyducs, and four pages,

all walking before ; and, on horseback, his master of the horse, his marshal, and the two gentlemen of his bed-chamber ; the two last had each a servant in their own livery attending them. Then came her majesty and the bride, which was a procession of itself ; first, came forty-eight footmen, twelve running-footmen, twenty-four pages, with their governor on horseback ; second, the gentlemen of the bed-chamber, on horseback, with every one a running-footman, who held the horse by the bridle, and two servants on horseback, one of them with a led horse, each in his own livery ; third, the lords of the bed-chamber on horseback, each with two-running-footmen to lead the horse, and four servants with three led horses, in their own liveries, their liveries and furniture of the horse vastly rich ; fourth, the master
of

of the horse attended by all the grooms, equerries, and riding-masters of her majesty's stables. 5th, The master of the buck-hounds, attended by all the officers of the hunt, in their proper habits. 6th, The under-marshal of the court with his staff. 7th, The great marshal with his staff, each with servants in their own liveries, as the lords of the bed-chamber had. 8th, The chariot, which was made to hold one person backwards, excessive rich, drawn by eight horses; in it the empress sat forward, and the bride backward. She was dressed in a stiffened bodied gown of silver stuff, embroidered with silver, the stomacher all diamonds, her own hair curled, with four tresses twisted with diamonds, and a little coronet of diamonds, and a great many between the curls of her hair, which is black, so that the jewels

looked well in it. 9th, The princess Elizabeth, with her court, which consisted of seven coaches, and all her men-servants in their stations, as her majesty's were, only not so many of them. 10th, The dutchess of Courland and her daughter, in the same chariot, with her court, as the princess Elizabeth had. 11th, The wives of the nobility, with coaches and servants as each of their husbands had, who went before the empress; the richness of all these coaches and liveries was inexpressible. They returned from the church in the same manner, only the bride and bridegroom came in a chariot together, and his court and her's, joined, attended them next after the empress, and every body, except the immediate servants of the crown, struck off in order to be in the great hall of
the

the palace to receive them. They came in as follows : 1st, The empress, led by the duke of Courland ; she had a stiffened bodied gown, (here called a robe) of brown and gold, very rich, and, I thought, very handsome ; a great number of pearls, but no other jewels. 2d, The bride, led by the bridegroom, his dress the same as her's, which I have before described. 3d, The princess Elizabeth, led by the prince Peter of Courland. She was dressed in a robe of pink and silver, very fine in jewels. 4th. The dutchess of Courland, led by her youngest son ; she had a robe of white sattin, embroidered with gold, very fine in rubies. 5th, her daughter, led by prince Czerkaskoi ; she had a robe of flowered silk on a silver ground. When they were in the hall, the ambassador came and

made a compliment of congratulation, and all the foreign ministers did the same, and then all the company. Her majesty dined at a table with only the bride and bridegroom, and the princess Elizabeth; every one else went home very weary; for the procession began at nine in the morning, and the clock struck eight at night as we sat down to dinner. At ten all returned to court, and the ball began, which lasted 'till twelve; then the empress led the bride to her apartment, and ordered no one to follow but the dutchess of Courland, two Russ ladies, and the wives of the foreign ministers, whose masters were related to the prince: there were only the emperor's resident and Mr. R—, who had wives of that number, and the emperor's resident's lady was ill, so I was the only one. When we were in her apartment, the empress ordered

dered the dutchess and me to undress the bride; we put her on a white satin bed-gown, trimmed with fine Brussels lace, and then were sent to call the prince. He came with only the duke of Courland, in his night-gown; as soon as he entered in, the empress kissed them both, and in the most affectionate manner took her leave, went in her coach to the summer-palace, and ordered the great marshal to conduct me home, for all the company retired when she carried away the bride. I got home, half dead with fatigue, about three in the morning. All the ladies were in robes, and it is impossible to imagine the richness of every one's dress, though it was in July, when heavy cloaths are very troublesome.

On Wednesday the bride and bridegroom went and dined with the empress at the summer-palace. She came with

with them, after dinner, to the winter one, where every body was invited who had been at the wedding, and appeared in new again, not the same as the day before. The bride had a gold ground with raised gold flowers upon it, edged with a thread of brown, and the bridegroom a coat of the same. There was a ball and a supper in the great hall for all the company. The bride, bridegroom, the princess Elizabeth, and the Courland family, sat at table; but as the empress never eats suppers, she walked about all the time, and talked to every one with her usual affability. The supper was very magnificent, and a fountain was contrived in the hall, which played all the time, so that one would have thought it had always been there.

Thursday was a day of rest, as her majesty found that she herself had need
of

of it as well as every one else. Friday, after dinner, there was a masquerade; there were four quadrilles, as they are called, consisting of twelve ladies each, besides the leader of each quadrille. The first was led by the bride and bridegroom, who were dressed in orange-coloured dominos, and little caps of the same, with a silver cockade, and a little laced ruff round the neck, tied with the same ribbon; and their twelve couples were all dressed the same, among whom all the foreign ministers and their wives were placed, whose masters were related either to the prince or princess. The second was led by the princess Elizabeth and prince Peter, in green dominos and gold cockades, and their twelve couple the same. The third by the dutchess of Courland and count Soltikoff (a relation of the empress) in blue dominos and

and pink and silver cockades. The fourth by her daughter and youngest son, in pink dominos and green and silver cockades. All the rest of the company were in what dresses each thought fit. There was a supper for the four quadrilles only, in the long gallery; the table had benches round it, so placed as to look like a turf bank, and the table the same; the table and benches were covered with moss and flowers, stuck in as if growing, and the supper, though very magnificent, was served to look like a rural entertainment. The empress walked about all the evening unmasked.

On Saturday her majesty and all the company dined at the new married couple's apartment, where was the ceremony of their waiting at table, which

is

is usual for the bride and bridegroom in that country to do. After dinner there was an opera, at the theatre in the palace.

On Sunday there was a masquerade in the garden of the summer-palace, which was finely illuminated, and a firework in the river, which runs by the side of the garden. Every body dressed to their own fancy, some very pretty, and some very rich ones. And thus ended this grand wedding, from which I am not yet rested, and what is worse, all this rout has been made to tie two people together, who, I believe, heartily hate one another: at least, I think, one may answer for it, that is *her* case, and she shewed it throughout all this week's feasting in a public shocking manner, and continues to treat him with the utmost contempt,

3

when

when out of the empress's sight*.—I beg you will not take it into your head

* This would almost induce one to think, that the princess had a pre-sentiment of the unhappy consequences of this match to herself and family. Her son, John III, being deposed in his cradle (as mentioned in a former note p. 73.) in 1741, she and her husband were banished to Riga, where (if living) they have ever since continued; and their son, unfortunately born heir to the Russian throne, at length fell a victim, in 1764, to the jealousy of the present empress, being put to death by two officers of the garrison of Schlusfelburg, where he was imprisoned, on pretence of an insurrection being made in his favour, by one Basil Mirowitz, grandson to the first rebel that joined the famous Mazeppa. The manifesto published in vindication of this action, is almost as unaccountable as the action itself, and is equally repugnant to common sense and common humanity. Lord Chesterfield, in one of his letters to his son, written soon after, expresses himself as follows: " You ask me what I think of the death of poor Iwan, and the person who ordered it. You
" may

to ask any more questions about this wedding, for I have troubled you with a confused heap of stuff already, that I am ashamed of; but there was so much of it, that it quite fluttered my head too much to give a relation of it plainer to be understood, nor will my head or hand allow me to say more, than that I am, &c.

“ may remember, I often said she would either
 “ murder him or marry him, or both: she has
 “ chosen the safest alternative; and has now
 “ completed her character of *femme forte*, above
 “ scruples and hesitation. If Machiavel were
 “ alive, she would probably be his heroine, as
 “ Cæsar Borgia was his hero.” Machiavel being no more, Catherine II. is the heroine of Voltaire, who, besides many other eulogiums, has styled her, in the dedication of his “ Philosophy of History,” “ the protectress of arts
 “ and sciences, as worthy by her genius to
 “ judge of ancient nations, as she is to govern
 “ her own.”

THE



ELEVEN ADDITIONAL
LETTERS

FROM

R U S S I A,

IN THE

REIGN OF PETER II.

BY THE LATE Mrs. VIGOR.

NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED.

WITH

A PREFACE AND NOTES.



P R E F A C E.

A Former collection of “ Letters from Russia” by this ingenious lady, published, with her own consent, in her life-time, 1775, having been well received by the public, the Editor doubts not that the following, found among her papers since her decease, being equally interesting, will meet with the same favourable reception. They are printed so as to be bound up with the others.

The

The late Mrs. Vigor was the daughter of the rev. Mr. Goodwin, a clergyman of large fortune in Yorkshire, which, after her brother's death, devolved to her, and was married, 1. to Thomas Ward, esq. Consul General to Russia, 1728; 2. to Claudius Rondeau, esq. Resident at that court, Nov. 23, 1731; and 3. to William Vigor, esq. of Taplow, Bucks, whom she long survived. She died at Windsor, September 12, 1784, aged 84. The following just character of her appeared soon after in the Gentleman's Magazine.

“ Her

" Her loss will be severely felt
 " by the neighbouring poor, a-
 " mongst whom she was con-
 " stantly searching after proper
 " objects for the exercise of her
 " charity and benevolence. To-
 " gether with great chearfulness
 " of mind, and equality of tem-
 " per, she retained an uncommon
 " quickness of apprehension, and
 " vigour of understanding, to the
 " time of her death. Having
 " lived much in the world, and
 " being well acquainted with
 " books, her conversation was the
 " delight of all who had the plea-
 " sure

“ sure of knowing her. Of the
 “ vivacity of her wit, and her ta-
 “ lents for observation, the public
 “ had a specimen in a volume of
 “ Letters from a Lady residing in
 “ Russia to her friend in England
 “ 1775,’ which she was in a man-
 “ ner obliged to publish, to pre-
 “ vent a spurious and incorrec-
 “ copy from being obtruded on
 “ the world. At a time of life re-
 “ markable for apathy and indif-
 “ ference, she possessed a degree of
 “ sensibility, and a tenderness of
 “ feeling, approaching almost to
 “ weakness; numberless examples

“ o

“ of which will occur to her
“ friends on perusing this faint
“ sketch of a most amiable and
“ engaging character.”

Some of the above thoughts
had been before expressed in verse
by another of her friends in the
following manner :

The young and gay may sometimes hate
The old, both peevish and sedate,

And even shun their sight :

But sense and age, combin'd with mirth,
Which smil'd on VIGOR's happy birth,

And nature here unite.

These charm alike both old and young,
Attentive to the matron's tongue,

They catch her air and voice ;

Age, with accomplishments like these,
The most inanimate must please,

And be their taste and choice.

Then

Then think not us so dull a pair,
 Who wish not age and sense to share,
 And hear their converse sweet :
 Impatient for the hour we wait,
 Which calls us to that honour'd gate,
 Where wit and wisdom meet.

LETTERS, &c.

CONTENTS.

PREFACE

Page

iv

Verses to the Author

—

vii

LETTER

—I. Citadel and Church of Petersburg. Burial-place of the Imperial family. Corpse of Peter the Great. Maxims and banishment of his eldest daughter. Her corpse laid in state

I

—II. Wax bust of Peter the Great and his youngest daughter. Her concern for him the cause of her death. Enthusiasm of the officer on guard

—

7

—III. An English ship-builder [probably Mr. Cozens]. The little Grandfire. Origin of Peter's at-

A

tachment

C O N T E N T S.

	Page
<i>tachment to the marine. A trip in imagination to ****</i>	12
—IV. <i>The author's intended jour- ney to Moscow. Wedding of Count Munich, governor of Pe- tersburgh, and the Countess Dow- ager Soltikoff. His family. The ceremonial. A German lady in- troduced to the author</i>	18
—V. <i>Younger part of Mr. ***'s fa- mily. Aukwardness and distress of the daughter at a ball. Black teeth formerly a beauty in Russia. An instance still remaining</i>	25
—VI. <i>Insolence of prince Menzi- koff to the young Emperor. Plot contrived by Count Osterman. Ar- rest and banishment of Menzikoff</i>	32
—VII. <i>Winter dress. A picture- lady, daughter to the Empress Catherine's master. Surprising</i>	rise

CONTENTS.

Page

rise of that empress. Her intrigue with one of her attendants. Her first husband, the corporal, introduced to her ——— 39

-VIII. *Journey to Moscow. Vehicle and mode of travelling. Duke of Liria, minister from Spain. The Holstein minister and the French consul. Mr. Ward's approaching absence and bad health. The great bell* 47

-IX. *Slabodians described. A Slabodian dinner and supper. Their enormous appetites* 56

-X. *Mr. Ward's return to Petersburgh. Characters of the Duke of Liria, Count Wrattelaus, Messiers Mangion, Villers-deau, Westphal, Ditmar, La Fort, Count Bondy, Gen. Tessin, Messrs.*

CONTENTS.

	Page
<i>Messrs. Swartz and Hockbolst, foreign ministers, and some of their wives</i> —	64
—XI. <i>Procession of the Emperor to church. His chevalier guards. His person and character. His affection for his sister. Her lamented death</i> —	70
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <i>Corrections and Additions</i> <i>Additional Notes, &c. on the former Volume</i> </div> <div style="font-size: 3em; line-height: 1;">}</div> <div style="text-align: right; vertical-align: middle;">75</div> </div>	

PREFACE.

4

LETTERS, &c.

0

LETTER I*.

5

Peterburgh, 1728.

Dear Madam,

E. **A** Ship being ready to depart puts me in mind of giving you some account of myself, or, what is more agreeable to me, of enquiring after you. What I have yet seen of this place worth communicating is, first,

* This Letter, it is evident, is previous in date to all that have been printed.

B

the

the citadel, the decorations of which (or, I believe, to speak properly, I should say, the works) as a citadel, I know nothing of ; but the church, in which is the burial place of the Imperial family, is handsome ; though as they have no seats of any sort in their churches, not being allowed any other posture than kneeling or standing, it gives a naked appearance to the edifice in my eyes. The body of Peter the Great has stood under a canopy in this church till the corpse of the dutchess of Holstein, his eldest daughter, was brought hither about a fortnight after we arrived. Why his body was then put into the vault, or why it was not done before, I know not. This daughter of his, who was married to the duke of Holstein [Gottorp] not long before her father died [1725] is said to have been a complete beauty, and

and all her pictures represent her as such ; but her mind was masculine. A very sensible woman, now married to a Hanoverian, who served her many years, has entertained me with many of her maxims ; one was, that “ fear is so mean a passion, that she “ could have no conception how it “ could possibly enter into a human “ breast,” another, that “ where life, “ and a crown, were in competition, “ the first was of no value, if it in- “ terrupted the last.” After the death of her mother, when Menzikoff determined to marry the Emperor [Peter II] to his daughter, as he knew her spirit, he sent her and her husband into their own country, on very short notice, and suffered none but their own domesticks to see them, after the order, till they set out. The situation of their house made it necessary for

them to walk some distance to go on board barges which carried them to the ship : they were guarded in this walk as prisoners ; the duke was composedly silent, but she called to every soldier she saw, and asked them if they would tamely suffer a daughter of Peter the Great to be so treated by one of his slaves. When the officer, who commanded her guard, represented to her, in the most respectful and submissive manner and terms, how improper such appeals to the soldiers were, she gave him a box on the ear, and asked how he dared to treat an Imperial princess in so disrespectful a manner. She died in childbed. The child (a son) survives. It is thought, that rage and resentment occasioned her death. Her corpse lay in state for many days after its arrival, before its interment. My curiosity led me
to

to see it. It stood under a canopy, with a stool at the head and feet, and on each side. On the stool on the right side, on a cushion, was her coronet as a daughter of Russia; on the left, that as dutchess of Holstein. At the head and feet, in the same manner, were the ensigns of the order; I think, that of St. Catherine. Two ladies of the first quality, representing two ladies of her bedchamber, with six of an inferior rank, stood round the corpse, dressed in long crape veils which covered them from head to foot, face and all. At the feet stood two colonels of the guard, their regimentals very like the Roman military dress. As both of their persons were fine, though not young, they were to me striking figures, and added greatly to the solemnity of the scene.

(6)

I this minute see the ship coming down the river which is to send a boat on shore for this letter; so can add nothing more of Russia, but hope you will not forget that you have a friend there who is most truly, &c.

LET-

N
ton
not
each
par
and
litt
nav
for
lett

•
date

LETTER II*.

Petersburgh, Feb. 1728.

Dear Madam,

NOtwithstanding the declaration of your naughty husband, when he tore us asunder, some months ago, of not suffering us to receive a letter from each other, for the first year of our separation, I hope this will get to you, and find you well, as also our sweet little fellow. From that aforesaid naughty man you will have heard something of us, as I have seen many letters directed to him from the count-

* This and the two following Letters are in date the III^d, IVth, and Vth.

B 4

ing

ing-house. You charged me to tell you something of this country in every letter, but you have heard so much of this place, that I am at a loss what to tell you. You used to say, of the wax bust of my uncle, taken in this country, that it represented the person so perfectly, that one could not help speaking to it. I have been to see one of Peter the Great, and his youngest daughter, done by the same hand. He is sitting in a great chair under a canopy, dressed in blue, trimmed with silver, in the hat which he wore at the battle of Pultowa, and which was there shot through. The holes made by the balls, (or should I say, bullets?) you are made to remark by the officer in waiting, for there is one, night and day, on that post. His daughter, the princess Nathalia, in a full dress, is standing by him, with her hand in his.

She

She survived him only ten days, and died at seven years old. From the moment she heard he was dead she never shed one tear, (though she had wept almost continually during his illness), but refused all sorts of food, nor could persuasions or threats prevail with her to take any kind of sustenance, but she was actually starved to death, and was buried with him at her own request. This figure represents her as a beauty, and it is said she was so, and that the figure is very like her. What such a spirit would have produced, had she lived, I leave you to conjecture. A representation of this truly great man, and this affectionate child, as much as if you really were in their presence, filled my mind with such a train of ideas, that, after standing to look at them a great while, I burst into tears, but was
roused

roused from my contemplations by the officer's flying to me, seizing my hand, and kissing it with eagerness, and in tears. He said something to Mr. Ward, who invited him to dine with us, and told me, that he said, " he " revered me for the tenderness I expressed for his dear departed father " and master." This scene, and the surprise of the man's first emotion, had so affected my spirits, that I was glad to get home, and recover myself, before he came to dinner. He was a Russ, and quite an enthusiast to his departed sovereign. During the conversation at and after dinner, not one word of which I understood, he speaking no language but his own, Mr. Ward, who speaks it well, discovered he had been an acquaintance of my late uncle, and, on hearing I was his niece, he redoubled his professions of friendship

ship.
in an
adve
of m
of hi
R
nute
self,
cula
of p
not
have
bein
that
her,

ship for me, and offers of serving me in any way in his power. This little adventure has occasioned a good deal of mirth between Mr. Ward and some of his old acquaintance here.

Remember you are to be very minute in every thing relating to yourself, and our dear little man, and particularly whether you have any thoughts of producing a rival to him. I cannot wish him to be an only one, as I have often reproached his mother with being spoiled from that cause; but that has not abated my friendship for her, or made me the less her, &c.

LET-

LETTER III.

Peterburgh, Feb. 1728.

Dear Sister,

Yesterday an English ship-builder* came upon business to your brother. As he was out and Mr. Rondeau with him, I asked this man to drink tea with me. Knowing he had more opportunities of seeing the great Peter in his hours of recreation, as well as in those of business, than most

* Probably Mr. Cozens, who attended the great Peter from England, father of the present ingenious painter, Mr. Alexander Cozens, to whom prince Menzikoff was sponsor, as was the Emperor to his brother Peter (deceased).

other

other people, having travelled up the country with him on the affairs of his navy, and that he is very communicative, I asked him what had first suggested the thoughts of maritime affairs to that monarch, as I had heard that in his younger days he had an aversion to water? He said, " why, madam, have not you seen *the little Grandfire* yet". Finding I did not know what he meant, he said, it was a boat that did belong to a merchant-ship, which was cast away near Archangel, and this boat remained on the shore; that his Majesty, coming by, saw it, and asked so many questions about it, that the use of it was explained to him. He then ordered it to be repaired, and some people to row, and sail in it before him; and at last went in it himself, notwithstanding his dislike to the water, ordered

dered it to be carried to Moscow, for himself about acquiring knowledge in maritime affairs, and, as you know, came to England, and Holland, to learn the art of ship-building, and built St. Petersburg. When he had a fleet, this boat was brought to Petersburg. The whole fleet was drawn out before Cronstadt; the empress and all her court, very finely dressed, went on board the largest ship in order to receive the emperor, who went on board this boat at Petersburg, more dressed than he had ever been seen to be, and, followed by a magnificent yatch, he was rowed by six admirals, and steered by the great admiral, to Cronstadt, and quite through the fleet, where he was saluted by every ship. He then was rowed to the ship where the empress was, where a grand entertainment was provided, and he performed

formed the ceremony of naming the boat *the little Grandfire*, and it was put on board the yatch, with all sorts of naval honours, and conveyed to St. Petersburg, and put into a house built on purpose for it, where it is now kept, and a centry constantly at the door. I engaged this honest ship-builder, who was in raptures all the time he was repeating these particulars to me, to escort me this morning to see this extraordinary machine; I mean extraordinary in its consequences. I know your curiosity about every incident relating to that great prince, which has led me into this long tale.

But you must now give me leave to drop Russia, and to take a trip in imagination to * * * *. Well then, I enter about a quarter before six; * * * * sees me come in out of the coach-yard, not having patience to drive round to
the

the front. He runs to call his master, who is with his workmen, I meet little * * *, who has just deposited the tea-things in the drawing-room. She flies not to you, ladies, above stairs, but to Mrs. * * * *; who has just begun her tea; with the ladies bodily attendants she hurries into the drawing-room, and embraces me, and I her, too full for utterance; when down run you, leaving your two elders behind you. By the time we have expressed our joy, enters brother Ward, and a fresh scene of joy succeeds. The moment I have swallowed my tea, he hurries me out to see how our plantations thrive, and shew me those in which you have assisted him, and then down the meadow to see how the building goes on. I find it almost finished, admire the neatness of it and then, then, then—don't chide, but my tears oblige me
to

to say, dear sister, when will this pleasing reverie be realised? Oh! I hear your brother's step; I must hide my emotion; for if I cannot assist him, I am at least determined not to distress him, which, I know, I should, were he to suspect that I was not perfectly pleased with my present situation. I will therefore only add loves, as due, from, &c.

C

LET-

LETTER IV.

Petersburgh, Feb. 1728.

Dear Madam,

THE agreeable flattery, that you used to me, before I left England, of chusing to take the task on yourself of corresponding with me, gave me too much pleasure for me to bear a disappointment in it without great regret. But I have been a little comforted, by a letter from Miss **, who tells me, that a right honourable is a constant visitor at . . . and has been favoured with a tête-a-tête with you in your dressing-room, which accounts for your not keeping so strictly to your word as I hoped you would

would have done. His lordship's taste is so good, that I hope his qualifications and merits are unexceptionable; and then, I imagine, I may soon wish you joy of being a countess. If so, may all the happiness the marriage state is productive of be yours!

I am now a little settled, but have the mortification of knowing that it is only for a short time; for as the court is at Moscow, and is likely to stay there, we must go thither as soon as the frost and snow make the road passable for sledges. This seems to me as a still farther remove from my friends; for though this place has now, in the absence of the court, none of the people of fashion left in it, yet it has all the trading people, many of the military, and also the members of several of the colleges, as they are styled here, such as that of commerce,

naval, and several others; but where any of these have any of the nobility in them, they are with the court, or on their own estates, and only those of an inferior rank are left here. Amongst these are some very conversible people; so that with their acquaintance, work, and a book, I could be very well contented to stay here, instead of rambling farther.

I was last week at the wedding of the governor of this place, count Munich,* to the widow of a Russian nobleman, a count Soltikoff. She is either a German, or a Livonian; I do not know which. Her first husband, whose name was Malza, was a Livonian, by whom she has a daugh-

* See a note on count Munich in the former collection, p. 118.

ter, who is thought to be a flame of the young monarch,† and is a maid of honour to the princess Elizabeth ‡ to whom her mother has been governess. The count has, by his first lady, a son and four daughters. The son is on his travels; the eldest daughter, married to a Livonian nobleman, is still here with her father; the second, about sixteen, is very pretty and agreeable; the two youngest are children. The company assembled at his house about five in the afternoon. It was very numerous, consisting of the families above-mentioned, except the traders. As to the outward appearance of this large group, a few had

† Peter II. See note ‡ p. 11. of the former volume

‡ Second daughter of Peter the Great, and empress 1741. She died, unmarried, 1762.

the air of gentility, but the rest you would have laughed at. They were violently dressed, but in things that seemed to have been the shew-dress of the family for at least three generations, and the manner and address of the wearers of the same standing. When the ceremony was over, the married couple stood hand in hand, while every individual of this large company came up to them, and made a very low bow, or curtsy. The musick then struck up, and the dancing began, which consisted of minuets, and Polish dances. They are danced by several couples in a borce step; the first couple sets the figure, and all the rest follow them without ever letting go their partners hands. At different parts of the tune they strike the heels of their shoes together in a kind of cadence. When the company was seated, to my great surprise

surprise and joy, Mr. Ward handed a fine woman, at least turned of forty, dressed entirely in the English fashion, only as it was worn about five years ago. She addressed me in German, and I observed a general smile on our meeting. Mr. Ward said, "Madam, my wife speaks no German, so you will be so good as to speak English." She answered, in perfectly good English, "You know, sir, I have forgot English"; nor would she speak one word more the whole evening. It seems, Mr. Ward was her instructor in the English tongue, and it was to this lady that I used to send clothes over every year, and on which, you may remember, your father and Mr. M. used to be so merry with him as to his cruelty: and after I observed the above-mentioned smile, I recollected having sent over

those she then wore, which made me know who she was, and consequently observe her narrowly. She most certainly has been handsome. She seemed delighted at his finding her in an exalted state, and with the title of excellence, though not very fond of him who has given her a right to it. She has not yet visited me, and, it must be confessed, it is a nice point. But this lady has carried me away from my subject. We had a grand supper, at which we sat from nine o'clock till near one, when we took our leaves, as I now will of you, as in duty bound, &c.

LET.

LETTER V*.

Moscow, 1729:

WELL, my dear madam, at last you have made ample reparation for your long silence, and it was a very agreeable surprize to me, about a week ago, to see your hand on the direction of a letter which must have met one of mine to you on the road. I find Miss * * 's intelligence was true, in relation to Lord . . . And so you have actually dismissed his lordship.

* This and all the following are in date the VIIth, VIIIth, IXth, Xth, XIth, XIIth, and XIIIth.

I doubt

I doubt not but your reasons for so doing were good ; though if you had no other but what you mention, I must think he is unfortunate, in missing great happiness by your having a wrong opinion of your merits, and suspecting his sincerity, when he professed himself captivated with your person, and not with your fortune. But as I am now never likely to know him, let us talk of other matters.

Your desires are to me commands ; so you shall be obeyed in the question you ask, concerning the younger part of Mr. * * 's family, though I own my curiosity is much raised to know what can have occasioned your asking it. This family then consists of two sons and a daughter ; the father and mother, as you, I find, know, were in a low rank in their own country, but do not want pride, now their affairs
are

are better, and so keep up their children very close, as they think them of vast consequence. The eldest son, about twenty, is a genteel young man, neither pertly forward, nor bashfully diffident. The daughter, about eighteen, is very handsome, or, I believe I should rather say, pretty, but a little awkward; which possibly proceeds from her mother's treating her as a child, always saying, "the child" does so and so. The youngest son is about twelve or thirteen, a lusty, handsome, rude boy. We had lately a little ball, only for our country folks, to return those they had made for us. The two heads of this family, with their eldest son and daughter, were of the party. I observed, that the son behaved very properly, but that the young lady declined dancing, and her brother talking eagerly to her every time she refused,
and

and she looking displeased, I took the opportunity of their talking together to express to her some wonder that she declined dancing, and asked, if she was not well. I hope, you will do me the justice to believe me more inclined to pity than mirth on her answering, " Yes, very well, but I " ashamed to dance, and wish I was " at home, where I know brother " Peter is pure merry with the maids, " for mamma charged them to play " with him." In the course of the evening, Mr. **, who loves his bottle, and had made rather too free with it, began to make a kind of love to all the young girls, by turns, which, it seems, is his constant custom, when he has drank freely, and some of the company told me, that he was very entertaining when he was in one of those humours ; but as the buffoonery
of

of a drunkard never could amuse me, I did not mind him, till I saw him address himself to this poor girl, who wished so much to be at home. Compassion then got the better of my dislike to intoxication, and I went and sat down next to her. Just as I did so, he was saying, with a theatrical air, "She is fair, ye Gods! how heavenly fair!" While she, with a hunch of her elbow, said, "Let me alone." He instantly made another quotation quite proper to the occasion. The poor thing, in spite of all I could urge to persuade her to say nothing, as nature and education unfortunately made her incapable of saying any thing to the purpose, would cry, every time he uttered one of these theatrical speeches, "Do be quiet, you ugly thing," and so forth; and he uttering such a number of these whims

whams

whams, so pat to the purpose, and with so much humour, that it was impossible not to suffer a laugh to get the better (for the moment, at least) of humanity, I tried all I could to find out whether want of education alone was the occasion of this poor thing's manner, or whether want of sense were not added to it; but really cannot say; though I do not think that she has so much folly, as real bashfulness, in her pretty face. Mr. Ward says, he guesses that the * * * family have set you to make this enquiry, from fears of a scheme for the one who is here. But, I dare say, they may be easy on that head; though as it is known here, that, if the eldest brother leaves no children, he is worth catching, I think they run a risk by leaving him here, though he does not want sense so much as prudence. You may remember

remember to have heard, that formerly black teeth were esteemed a beauty in Russia, and that they dyed them black. Last week the wife of an admiral whom I had assisted with a medicine prescribed in a lying-in, and that could not be got at any shop, came to make me a visit of thanks. She is exceedingly handsome, though not very young, when her mouth is shut, but as frightful when it is open, her teeth being dyed black and shining, as if japanned. I really fear that I started, when she first opened her mouth. Mr. Ward says, he hardly thought any one had used this disguise so lately as her age indicates. And so with these black teeth I will bid you farewell, &c.

LET-

LETTER VI.

Moscow, 1729.

WHAT an unreasonable woman are you, my dear madam, to make so strange a use of the lenity of your spouse (as your good cousin calls him,) of suffering you to write in three or four months, instead of twelve, to set me the almost impossible task of giving you an account of the fall of Menzikoff! He is quite forgotten here; but by asking questions the following is what I have learned. On his shewing an intention of setting his daughter on the throne, the nobility grew jealous, and wished his ruin. He was so sensible of this, that he had banished

nished many, and designed doing so by many more. The young monarch never saw any one, except at the drawing-room, where he himself was always at his elbow, but his preceptors, his sister,* about a year older than himself, the princess Elizabeth, his aunt, then about fifteen, and Menzikoff's family. Things were in this situation, when Menzikoff had finished a church at a country-house, of which he was very fond, about twelve miles farther from Petersburgh than Peterhoff, to which last place he carried the emperor, and his sister, and left them there, while he went to the first to prepare all things to receive the young monarch with the utmost magnificence, who was to be present at the dedication of this church, and, as many supposed, then,

* Princess Nathalia.

D

and

and there to marry his daughter. Against the day appointed for this ceremony, a plot had been prepared, contrived, it is supposed, by count Osterman, who was preceptor to the emperor. He had asked Menzikoff's leave to remain some days at Peterburgh, after his pupil went to Peterhoff; which was granted. Amongst those under sentence of banishment was a nobleman very much in years, and one that the poor little monarch loved. Osterman had prepared and instructed all his actors, and early in the morning of the day that the sovereign was to go to Menzikoff's, this old lord came abruptly into the room where he and his sister were at breakfast, and said, he had, by the absence of Menzikoff, the comfort of seeing his majesty once more, and he should now die easy. The poor child answered,

“ Why

" Why do you talk of dying? are
 " you ill?" He then burst into tears,
 and said, as he was banished, at his
 age it was next to a certainty that he
 should never return. The child ex-
 claimed, " Banished: who has ba-
 " nished you?" He said, Menzikoff
 had been so daring as to send an order
 from his Majesty to banish him. " I
 " never gave any such order," re-
 plied the child, " nor shall you go.
 " Oh sister!" said he, crying, " what
 " shall I do? he shall not go." She,
 as instructed, said, " Do, dear father,
 " retire for a little while, or my bro-
 " ther will cry himself sick," He did
 so; and when he was gone, she said,
 " Do, brother, send for my aunt, and
 " advise with her what to do, to get
 " you out of this tyrant's power, who
 " treats you ill." He ordered a per-
 son to go for her; but was answered,

that a messenger was just arrived from her to his majesty.

He was admitted, and said, that the princess was setting out that morning to wait on his majesty, but that prince Menzikoff had taken all her horses, saying, he wanted them. This threw the poor child into a fresh passion of tears and bewailing. The princess then advised him to send for his preceptor, and consult with him. This was done, but it took up so much time, that Menzikoff arrived to fetch the emperor just after Osterman came into the room to him. The child flew to him, clung to him, and said, "I will not see Menzikoff." The count said, "Pray, sir, be composed. Your guards most certainly will not let him come in, if you order them not." He cried out, "I do order them." Just as Menzikoff appeared

at

at the door of the antechamber, the centuries crossed their muskets, which denied him entrance. He expostulated, but to no purpose; so he retired, and returned to his own house from whence he came, where in about an hour he was arrested by the emperor's orders, and sent away towards Siberia with all his family, that very night, and the guards that were on the spot took the oaths to the young emperor, as did all those at Petersburg the next day, whither he and his sister went in the morning. Does not this appear like a puppet-show? A superannuated old man, and two children, overturn an empire. For such in effect it was, by overturning the regent. Now how much better might we have employed our time by prattling of our own affairs and our ownelves, than

of cocks and bulls, and pye men, nay
or even of emperors, that we have
nothing to do with. But you com-
mand, and I obey, as becomes, &c.

LET.

LETTER VII.

Moscow, Oct. 1729.

Dear Sister,

THIS is the last letter you will be plagued with from the Russian bear, till the summer, as this is the last ship for this season, and we are now preparing for the winter, and I own that the apparatus frights me. Mr. Ward yesterday brought me home some very handsome scarlet damask, I thought, for a night gown; but before I could thank him, out came from the same parcel a great fur, like a petticoat in shape, but, to all appearance, of a weight that no animal

D 4

with

with only two legs could carry it. This, he told me, was for a soubre, or gown to travel in, or to wear to any place where ceremony is not required. For more ceremonious occasions there was crimson velvet, and ermine to line it, for a cloak, and a broad forehead-cloth of black velvet, lined with sattin, and a muffler under the chin, that is fastened to it on the temples; so that only eyes, mouth, and nose are seen. It is so contrived that it may be worn with the head full-dressed, without disordering the hair or cap, but when I travel, I am to have a fur cap over it, and no other head-dress. As it is, I am so disguised you would hardly {know me, for, at your brother's desire, I went into the dress of the country very soon after I got here, and found that he judged right, as it prevented much staring at me. At
the

the wedding of our governor*, I observed a lady, with a picture of the empress Catherine hung to a blue ribbon on her left side, ornamented with diamonds. After dancing a minuet with a plain-dressed, but gentleman-like man, he said, in rather broken English, " Madam, pray give me
 " leave to introduce my wife to you,
 " who would have been to wait on you
 " before now, but she has been ill,
 " and this is the first day of her going
 " out." He then brought this picture-lady to me, who entertained me very politely, and told me who all the company were, and made me a visit the next day, and we are become as intimate as the distance between us will admit of, she living chiefly at Cronstadt, her husband being a sea-

* Count Munich. See a former letter.

officer.

officer. She is daughter to the clergyman to whom the empress Catherine was a servant when she married her first husband, the Swedish corporal. When she came to be empress, she sent for this clergyman and his family, and gave them a pension, and often went to see them, and took this daughter about herself, and always shewed great love for her. The emperor married her to this gentleman, and gave her a fortune, and, on her marriage, she had this picture pinned on her breast by the empress. They are both good sort of people, and, I believe, a very happy couple. This surprising woman, who, from being the wife of a corporal, became that of a monarch, has so far raised my curiosity as to make me very inquisitive as to any anecdotes about her ; and by all the information I can get, I think that,

if

if she had died four or five years before the great Peter, she would have made a great figure in history ; for gallantry with a monarch, or, more properly speaking, the gallantries she had had, before her marriage with him, would have been overlooked. But you say, why do not I tell you her history, as I have heard it here ? now though this will spin out this letter to an unreasonable length, I tell you that she was servant in the family of a clergyman in Finland, as nursery-maid to this above-mentioned lady. She married a Swedish corporal, and was taken by a party of Russians, some say, on the wedding-day, others say, the next day. No one knows what was the fate of her husband. She was by General Baure, who commanded the party, given to prince Menzikoff, as were many more Swedish female prisoners.

prisoners. He was so fond of her, as to be jealous, and kept her very close. Somebody told the emperor what a beautiful Swedish girl Menzikoff had, but that he suffered no one to see her. The emperor said, he would go directly to Menzikoff's, and tell him he wanted one of his Swedish girls to get up his linen, and that his informer should make him such a sign when the person he mentioned appeared. They went that moment. The monarch made his proposed request; several were produced, without the sign being made. On which the emperor said, "I am sure, you have more, and I
 "insist on seeing them all." She then was produced, and he took her home with him, and, after some years cohabitation with her, at last made her his wife, and continued very fond of her till he discovered an intrigue between
 between

tween her and one of her attendants, who was taken up on some other pretence, and condemned to lose his head. This sentence was executed, and the emperor carried her in a close coach to see him suffer. I leave you to form to yourself the situation into which that sight, and his upbraidings, must put her. However, he shewed no outward resentment, on his children's account; but it was generally supposed, that as soon as they were married, she would have severely felt his resentment; and her very dissolute life, after his death, made every one say, that she merited any severity he could have shewn her. Some years before this a man was admitted to the presence of the emperor, whom, after he had talked with him some time, he locked into his apartment, and went himself to that of the empress; after
some

some stay there, she came out with him, and went to his in great commotion, where she was heard to exclaim, " It is he ! " and in the course of three hours, that they two and this unknown man were together, she was heard to weep much and often repeat, " You promise me, he shall not be hurt." He, without any passion, answered, " I do promise, on my honor, and pity him enough to do every thing for his ease and advantage." This man was sent away in the night, and was supposed to be the corporal [her husband]. She was in strong hystericks all that night, and he very tender over her. But you must be glad that my paper stands your friend.

LET-

LETTER VIII.

Moscow, Oct. 1729.

I AM now, my dear sister, to give you some account of myself and this new scene and new faces; for I thought otherwise it would be too long a silence, a thing that we are both (you know) accused of not loving by any means. This is a charge to which I plead guilty and hope so do you, as I should not love you so well, if it were not so; for reserve to me renders society more disagreeable than any one thing I know. I can sit alone with great chearfulness, as my mind is active enough to make many agreeable conversations present in imagination;

gination ; but to sit in company, or, more properly speaking, in presence, of people who only now and then break in on my thoughts by a formal sentence or two, to which I must answer with great circumspection, is intolerable. So, pray, let us prate with our usual freedom ; in spite of the laughers and prudent ones. I shall pass over our journey, which was not, you may suppose, the most entertaining, as I was condemned to that same odious silence, unless when we met to eat, when, I fear, my tongue took care to use its liberty at the expence of your poor brother's ears. But he has used that flippant little machine to such indulgence, that it has no constraint from his presence. I had a thousand questions to ask, " What " was such a thing, that we passed at " such and such a time ? oh dear, how " could

“ could you sleep? I longed to ask
 “ you then.” I hate these machines
 that hold only one person. I can only
 sleep in the night, and look at the
 scenes we pass, when it is light, and
 so forth, till I was again shut up
 alone in my cradle*, for such my ma-

* This vehicle and mode of travelling have
 been lately more fully described by Mr. Cox.
 “ On account of the narrowness of the roads,
 “ each person had a separate carriage. There
 “ are various kinds of sledges used for travel-
 “ ling in this country; some are entirely close;
 “ others quite open; those which we employed
 “ were partly open and partly covered. A
 “ sledge of this sort is shaped like ‘ a cradle;’
 “ its tilt, which rises from the hinder extre-
 “ mity, and projects to about two feet, was
 “ open in front, but provided with curtains,
 “ which might be drawn and tied together
 “ whenever the weather was severe. The out-
 “ side was secured with matting and oil-skin;

E

“ and

chine appeared. Well, we arrived at last, found a house taken for us, and are now tolerably settled in it. The foreign ministers, and their ladies, have visited, and we have returned the visits; though this is, I find, looked on as a condescension in those ladies, as your poor brother's title of "Conful" only does not tack the "Excellence" to it, and has cost me some trouble to hinder my own servants from giving, and I am no way

" and the inside with coarse cloth. Within
 " was a mattress, feather-bed, and coverlid, or
 " quilt, of coarse cloth. In this travelling
 " couch I sometimes lay extended at full
 " length; sometimes sat cross-legged like a
 " Turk; and at other times raised myself on a
 " seat formed by two cushions. Each sledge
 " was drawn by two horses, harnessed one be-
 " fore the other, &c. *Travels into Russia,*
 " &c."

ambitious

ambitious of. Amongst these high folks there are two very agreeable, the duke of Liria, minister from Spain, and the French consul. The first is son to the duke of Berwick*, talks perfect English, and has the manners and freedom of our country. He is fond of speaking English, and of mortifying the German pride, that reigns amongst the other excellences, which he does with great humour and good nature. He has a great suite, and gentlemen of different nations amongst them, but has quartered himself upon

* Natural son to K. James II, by Mrs. Arabella Churchill, the duke of Marlborough's sister. He was killed at the siege of Philipshburgh, 1734. His son, the above-mentioned duke, is now living, and has a son, styled Marquess of Jamaica, married to the youngest daughter of Prince Gustavus of Stolberg. Cha. Steuart, called count of Albany, married the eldest.

us every Thursday to eat a joint of meat roasted in the English manner. He then comes alone, and no other is ever invited, but General Tefsin, the Holstein minister, and Monf. Villerdeau, the French consul, who are both most polite, chearful, and sensible companions, and have in some measure reversed the characters of their country; the first being full of vivacity, and the other of grave humour, to which his having resided many years in Spain may have contributed. The two last are batchelors, and the dutchess of Liria is in Spain; so I am the only female of this group. Hitherto I have only talked of myself. The place, as I have only seen it in winter, affords little matter, and I can hardly bear the thoughts of seeing it in summer, as then I find I must submit to be in a very painful situation, Mr. Ward
being

being obliged, during the shipping season, to be at Petersburgh and chusing I should stay here. And that the government business may not suffer, while he is taking care of the trade, Mr. Rondeau also remains here. This is, I own, the hardest trial of my obedience he has inflicted since I promised it; but obeyed he shall be in this, as well as in all things else, however grievous to me. His health makes me tremble at the very thoughts of being absent from him, as it requires tender nursing. Come, fortitude, to my aid! as it did, when I parted with a fond father, from whose presence I had never been a fortnight in my whole life, till I left him to come into a strange country. But, alas! I then had a comfort I shall now be deprived of. I fancy I now see you run into the next room with "Oh! poor thing:

" his health is not better, I find, as
 " she and we hoped it would !" and
 then read this part of my letter, and
 our grave eldest sister say, " If she
 " would not make such a fuss about
 " his health, it would be better."
 The next senior says, " It is pity she
 " is so childish, but she cannot help
 " it, so I pity her." Tell our brother
 in the King's Bench walks, I design to
 answer his letter by shipping, but that,
 for all his bar wit, he would give his
 ears to be as truly beloved by a cheer-
 ful female as his brother is by one who
 loves him for that brother's sake, as
 well as his own merit ; nay, and that
 all the law quirks cannot, shall not,
 alter that love. I had almost forgot
 to tell you, that I have seen the great
 bell ; it is indeed surprising ; but I dare
 not venture to tell you the weight, for
 fear of telling an untruth ; this, how-
 ever,

ever, I can tell you without that hazard, it is not so heavy as my heart is at the thoughts of this untoward separation. Loves, &c. you know, are things of course. I am, &c.

LETTER IX.

Moscow, 1729.

YOU say, my dear madam, that Mr. *** has commanded you to ask me, if I have seen any Slabodians yet, and what I think of them; and add, that his smile, at giving the order, was gayer than usual; which has raised your curiosity, to know whether these Slabodians are two or four-legged animals, and beg me to be speedy in satisfying your impatience, as well as that of your two sisters. But first, I must tell you, that you have raised mine to as high a pitch to
guess

guess which of my old acquaintance could have the power so far to steal away the profound and natural gravity of my name-fake, as to make her do a rude thing. Had it been the lively Maria, I should not have wondered that a small matter should strike her imagination in so ludicrous a light as to get the better of her good breeding for a moment; and I am almost tempted to defer answering your question till you have let me into the secret of who, and to which of you, this laughable lover comes; for that, I think I am sure, is the case. But, for once, I will trust your generosity, that your next shall gratify my curiosity, and come to the Slabodians. "Slabode," in the Russian language, is a "suburb" in ours. Now these "animals", as you very emphatically call them, have only two legs that are visible;

visible; but, from many circumstances, one would imagine that they had two more that are hid. However that be, from their having inhabited this very Slabode, time out of mind, they are now called Slabodians. The ancestors of them were most certainly men, of almost all nations, who came to settle in this country in different occupations; but all inhabited this place, as being the most convenient for them. In course of years, they, and their descendants, as they grew up, married amongst each other, and each family, retaining their original language, is now become a mixture of them all, without any one's being perfect. None of them now are of any visible profession, nor are they known to have any possessions, but live in houses, with equipages, servants, &c. like people of the first rank. Several
of

of them, whom Mr. Ward formerly knew, have visited us. One family, whose predominant mixture is Russian, German, and English, invited us to dinner, they called it ; I can find no name for it. The company was very large, of each sex ; but the dinner, for number of dishes, and the quantity each contained, I guess sufficient to have fed the whole nation, from which each of their progenitors came. At this enormously loaded table we sat four hours. My poor arms were quite fatigued with giving away plates, each loaded with enough to have dined me for a week ; but if I was at first surprised at the quantity on the table, I was astonished at that which every Slabodian swallowed, and could not have supposed any human stomach could have contained it. They drank in proportion, except

two

two or three pretty young girls, next to one of whom Mr. Ward placed Mr. Rondeau, with a smile, which, I thought, had meaning. These ladies, though helped, or at least offered, of every thing as the others were, did not eat the quantity of the leg of a lark. Mr. Rondeau took great pains, and professed great concern at the loss of appetite of her that sat next him, by offering and proposing every dish to her; till an old gentleman, on the opposite side of the table, roared out, " Sir, do not give yourself so much trouble about my daughter; she will not eat here; it is not the fashion amongst us for unmarried lasses to eat before folks; but I warrant she had taken care to line her inside well, before she came out, and will stuff like a devil, when she gets home." Guess at the face this

this speech produced in a man naturally delicate, and bred among the politeſt circles. He gave Mr. Ward and me, who ſat next each other, ſuch a look as had nearly put me into my poor nameſake's caſe.* Well, at laſt, to my great joy, we roſe, and the ladies were conducted into a drawing-room, where were ſet out on a long table coffee, tea, chocolate, and a profuſion of cakes of all ſorts, of which the married ladies ate, as if they had kept the unmarried ones faſt for the four preceding hours. When this was over, and a freſh cargo of cakes and ſweet-meats of all ſorts ſet on a ſide-board, the card parties were ſeated, and the gentlemen favoured us with their company, as lookers on, moſt of them with long pipes in their

* See page 57.

mouths,

mouths, which really rendered the room almost insufferable. These obliging attendants, with great gallantry, frequently pulled the pipe out of their mouths, and with that in one hand, and cake and sweetmeats in the other, offered them to the ladies. As their number was large, this gallantry, from some one or other of them, was almost incessant. No refusal was taken. I observed, the Slabodian stomachs still found room for this regale. That of your humble servant was almost overfet, and I trembled lest my pockets would hold no more, when we were summoned to a supper as plentiful as the dinner; where, to my astonishment, room was still found in all the stomachs, but ours and the poor single girls, who durst not touch a bit. We sat at this meal till one in the morning, and then were dismissed with

with many apologies for the smallness of our entertainment. I forgot to tell you, that drams of all sorts were served several times during each of these gorging matches, and we were told by the seniors of each sex, how necessary they were in this cold country. I never, I think, rejoiced so much as when I got home, to unload my pockets, and laugh: but am resolved never to go to another Slabodian dinner. Now do you determine whether a Slabodian is worth catching. If you chuse it, I will send you one, pipe and all, being, &c.

LET-

LETTER X.

Moscow, 1728.

YOUR "spouse" will have heard that Mr. Ward is returned to Petersburg, so that you will fancy I make a mistake in dating this from Moscow. I wish I did, but I am left here, as you may suppose, in a very disagreeable situation, as his health gives me a thousand fears, beside the loss of his company. I have a female friend, or, more properly speaking, an acquaintance, who stays with me till his return; as being in the house with Mr. Rondeau alone would have been attended with very disagreeable restraint,

restraint, if I had only servants; though his conversation, as it is now, is a great consolation to me. The duke of Liria has taken me under his protection; and the mentioning this protector puts it in my head to bring you acquainted with the set of company I now converse with, which are the ministers from different courts. His grace is minister from Spain, and is son to the duke of Berwick. He is also very agreeable, very lively, very polite, and good-natured. Count Wrattesslaus, minister from the emperor of Germany, is a great talker, and drinks hard, but consequently is not always the most agreeable company. France has at present only a *chargé des affaires* and a consul. The first, Mons. Mangion, *la la*, no harm, nor much amusement. The other, Mons. Vil-

F lerdeau,

lerdeau, a very sensible, polite, friendly
 man, and a most agreeable companion.
 Denmark has Monsf. Westphal, a for-
 mal, sensible man, who is a walking
 chronicle of this country, where he
 has resided, in his present capacity,
 near thirty years. Sweden Monsf.
 Ditmar, an old soldier, in all the wars
 of Charles XII, who has been nearly
 as long in this country as the other;
 many years of the time a prisoner of
 war in Siberia, and speaks the lan-
 guage of this country as well as a na-
 tive; a chearful, good-natured, friend-
 ly man. Poland Monsf. La Fort. He
 has a wife, of whom more by and by.
 Holstein Count Bondy, who has also
 a wife, of whom also by and by; also
 General Teflin, a well-bred, agree-
 able soldier, Holland Monsf. Swarzt,
 a very young man. The resident
 from

from the emperor, besides count Wrattelslaus, is Mons. Hockholst, who has a wife. Now for the ladies. Madame Bondy is handsome, but did not invent gun-powder, has had rather a low education. Count Wrattelslaus is her great admirer, but it is only flirtation. Madame La Fort has been handsome, is lively, witty, and has always been bred in a court. His grace of Liria is her dangler. She has an assembly every evening, and does the honours very well. She loves play, and does not lose by it. Madame Hockholst is neither young nor handsome, but very good-natured. She is domestick, and, having no children, has a nursery of dogs, and is troublesome with her fondness of them, but is so complaisant, as to confine them to their nursery, when any one is with

her that does not love them. Here is also, in this service, General La Fort, nephew to the famous favourite of the great Peter. This is an amiable man, and has as amiable a wife and daughter, who are my very good neighbours, General Bondy and his lady are also agreeable. This is the set I chiefly converse with, though there are some others that I visit.

I was much surprised to receive a letter lately from Miss * * * * I concluded she had long since changed her name, but find that affair is all at an end, and I will trust to your prognosticks another time; though I own, I then accused you, in my own mind, of a little pique in your judgment. I am glad you are likely to produce a play-fellow to my sweet little man. I am obliged to you for your wishes for my company, but,
 alas !

in our suburb, to a church in the city, on horseback, attended by a numerous train of nobility, preceded by a party of the chevalier guards. These are a body of men instituted (I think) by the empress Catherine. Every private man of them ranks as a lieutenant. Their dress is in the old Roman military garb, very rich, and their duty only about the person of the sovereign. Then came a large number of the great officers of the court; then his imperial majesty, between a field-marshal on his right, and his governor, count Osterman,* on his left; then another train of officers of the court, and nobility; the whole closed by another party of the same guards. A lucky stop, and a good place, gave

* High Chancellor of Russia, and prime minister, in 1740.

me a full view of him. He appeared tall of his age, has light-brown hair, blue eyes, rather a handsome face, and, I fancy, a fine complexion ; but tanned like a mulatto. He has a very grave look ; if I were not speaking of a monarch, I should say, a surly one ; so much so, that even the bloom of youth loses its pleasingness by it. He is, they say, very reserved, and does not chuse to make himself master of any language but his own. He was doatingly fond of his sister,* and she could persuade him to almost any thing. One anecdote, I think I can be sure, is true. One of his valet de chambres, a Frenchman, was cutting the princess's hair, and she talking to him in French, when the emperor came into her apartment, and said,

* See p. 33, &c.

“ Sister,

" Sister, why do you talk French to
 " him? he speaks better Russian than
 " you do French." She answered,
 " That is the very reason, brother,
 " why I do it; for would it not be
 " shameful, that he, who has so few
 " helps, should learn our language
 " better than we learn his who have
 " helps to it?" He patted her cheek,
 and kissed her, and said, " I will ap-
 " ply for the future", and to the man,
 " Do you always speak French to
 " me, when you are about me". This
 princess promised fair to have in-
 herited her grandfather's genius.
 Count Osterman made use of her in-
 fluence over his pupil to do, or pre-
 vent his doing, any thing he liked or
 disliked. The day she died, the worth-
 less young favourite* that this young

* Prince Dolghorucki.

monarch

monarch has unhappily taken a fancy to, finding count Osterman in the next room to that where her corpse lay, with the greatest grief painted in his face, with a sneer said to him, " There lies your princess. Now go, " and complain of me to her." Every worthy person agrees that the empire had the greatest loss by her death, that it has had since that of her grandfather, and no lovers of the country speak of her without tears. She died of a consumption, and behaved through a tedious illness like a heroine. Now I have talked of what I think little better than a story of a cock and a bull, I expect you will tell me all about my old neighbourhood. How go on the handy dandys? Are they so fond still, or is the honey-moon almost over? In short, I insist on being told what you are all doing, or no more Russian tittle tattle shall you have from, &c.

F I N I S.

CORRECTIONS and ADDITIONS.

Note on " Gen. Baur," p. 43.

Lieut. Gen. Baur was a man of a very low extraction in Holstein. He was only a corporal, when he entered the Czar's service. He distinguished himself by sundry eminent actions, and was at last promoted to the rank of General through prince Menzikoff's recommendation.

De la Motraye.

Letter X, should have been dated " 1729."

ADDITIONAL NOTES, &c. on the former
Volume,

Letter I. should have been dated Feb. 1728.

Letter II. ——— April 1729.

P. 11. note † l. 2. for ' but' r. ' scarce.'

P. 12. *Add to this note.* Prince Menzikoff died at Berosowa, on the most distant frontiers of Siberia, in November 1731. His daughter, who had been betrothed to the Emperor, (as mentioned in Letter V,) died before her father, in exile. For an account of the burial of his other daughter, see Letter XXI.

P. 13.

P. 13. *Add to Note* *. She gave great hopes, and had an understanding much superior to her years. See Letter XI. of Vol. II.

Mansfein's Memoirs.

Letter III. should have been dated Nov. 4, 1729.

P. 18. Add as a note on Prince Dolghorucki's sister*. " * This princess," says General Mansfein, " without being absolutely a beauty, " was a very pretty figure : she was above the " middle stature, and very well shaped. She " had something languishing in her large blue " eyes, and besides wanted neither wit nor " education."

Letter IV should have been dated December 2, 1729.

P. 22. Add as a note * The emperor had made several excursions and hunting parties on the grounds of Dolghorucki, his favourite, who giving him one day a breakfast at a country house which he had near Moscow, presented
his

his sister to him, and he from that moment resolved to marry her.

Mansfein's Memoirs.

P. 23. Add as a note on "palace," l. 2.* of Le Fort, where the emperor then resided.

P. 26. Note on "nor agreeable," l. 19.

* It is generally agreed, that he had a good heart, a great deal of vivacity and penetration, and an excellent memory. It was enough for him to hear any thing once to retain it.

Mansfein.

P. 28. l. 16. for 'fixth' r. 'fixteenth'.

P. 29. Add note on "head-ach," l. penult.

* The ignorance of the physicians, and the too ungovernable vivacity of that prince, were the cause of his death. He would not bear to remain quiet: he opened a window, and the small pox, which had begun to come out, struck in again.

Mansfein.

P. 32. Add note on l. 11. "turbulent
"one".* "The true reason," says General
ral

ral Manstein, " for preferring the dutchess of
 " Courland, was, that she being at Mittau, the
 " remoteness of that place would afford time
 " for the firmer establishment of the republi-
 " can system."

Ib. Note on l. 13. † She arrived at Mos-
 cow, February 25.

Letter VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X, should
 all have been dated 1730.

Letter XIII, ——— Jan. 1732.

Letter XXI—XXIX, both inclusive, 1737.

Letter XXX, Petersburg, 1737.





The SUCCESSION of the FAMILY of ROMANOW, now reigning in RUSSIA.

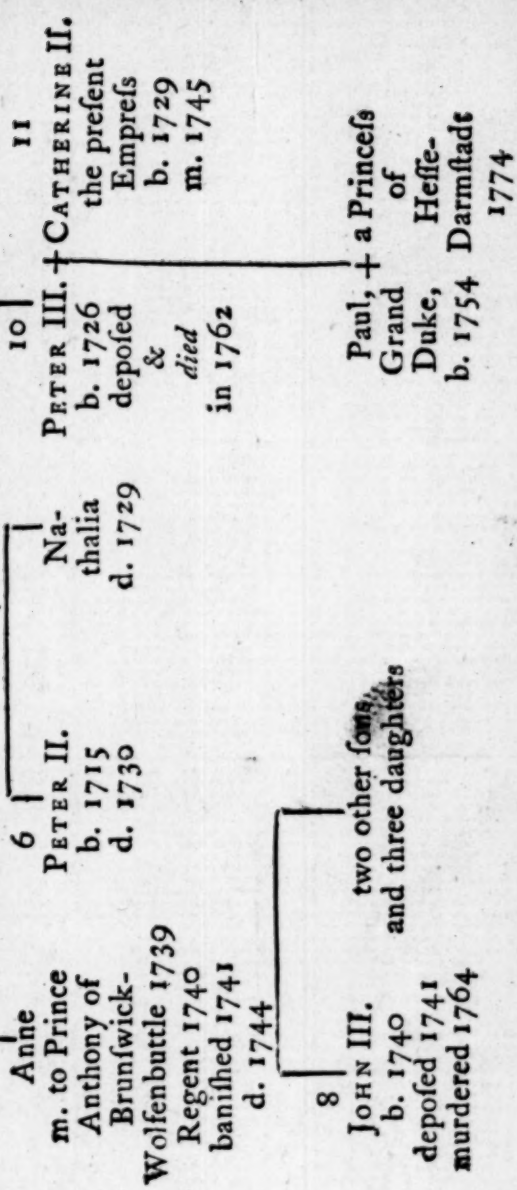
I
MICHAEL THEODOROWITZ ROMANOW,
Son of Philaretos Archbishop of Rotow,
b. 1596
chosen Czar 1613
d. 1645

2
ALEXIS MICHAELOWITZ,
b. 1630
d. 1676

3	THEODORE	4	JOHN II.	5	Eudoxia + PETER I. + CATHERINE I.	Sophia
Simon & Alexis before their father	b. 1657 d. 1682	b. 1684 d. 1696	or the Great	b. 1689 m. 1712 d. 1727	b. 1670 m. 1689 d. 1737	Co-regent d. unm. 1704

7	ANNE	Alexis	Peter	Anne	9	ELIZABETH
Catherine						

Mecklenburgh - m. to the B. of
Schwerin 1716 Courland 1710 d. in prif. d. before of Holstein-
Paul m. to the D.
d. unm.



N. B. The figures over the names shew the order of succession.
 John II. and Peter the Great were joint sovereigns, and
 Sophia Co-regent, till 1689.

